

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 278 **DATE:** March 6, 2001  
**Version:** With author's A1 amendment  
**Authors:** Nornes and others  
**Subject:** Expansion of access to dental services  
**Analyst:** Elisabeth M. Loehrke

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### Overview

This bill establishes a grant program for nonprofit community clinics that provide dental services, allows dental hygienists to provide certain services to limited access patients without a licensed dentist being present, and allows the commissioner of human services to increase MA reimbursement rates to dentists and dental clinics deemed critical access dental providers.

### Section

- Dental service expansion grant program.** Adds § 144.1499. Directs the commissioner of health to establish a grant program to award grants to the Academic Health Center to establish or expand the operations of nonprofit community clinics that provide dental services on a sliding fee scale and that do not restrict access to services based on a client's financial status. Requires grant funds to be used for capital expenditures or to expand dental services in the community.
- Dental hygienists.** Amends § 150A.10, subd. 1. Allows a dental hygienist to provide certain services to limited access patients without a licensed dentist being present if the services are authorized by a licensed dentist and a licensed dentist reviews the dental hygienist's findings. Defines limited access patient as a patient who, due to age, disability, or geographic location, cannot receive regular dental services in a dental office. Allows dental hygienists practicing under this paragraph to provide services at locations other than the hygienist's or dentist's usual place of business.
- Physician and dental reimbursement.** Amends § 256B.76. Allows the commissioner of human services to increase MA reimbursement rates up to 50% for dentists and dental clinics deemed by the commissioner to be critical access dental providers. Lists criteria for the commissioner to consider when determining whether to deem a dentist or clinic a critical access dental provider. If there is no critical access dental provider in a service area, allows the commissioner to designate a dentist or clinic as a critical access dental provider for that service

area if the provider will significantly increase access to dental care in the service area.

- 4 **Appropriations.** Makes blank appropriations from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the 2002-2003 biennium to fund the rate increases for critical access dental providers, and to the commissioner of health for the 2002-2003 biennium for the dental service expansion grant program.
- 5 **Effective date.** Makes section 3 effective the day following final enactment.