

to reimburse retired dentists providing volunteer services for the cost of license fees and malpractice insurance.

- 3 **Dental services demonstration project.** Amends § 256B.69, by adding subd. 6c. Requires the commissioner to establish a dental services demonstration project in Crow Wing, Todd, Morrison, Wadena, and Cass counties to provide dental services to MA, GAMC, and MinnesotaCare recipients. Allows the commissioner to contract on a prepaid basis with a nonprofit health service plan corporation, an HMO, or a community integrated service network to provide services, or to administer a fee-for-service system.
- 4 **Physician and dental reimbursement.** Amends § 256B.76. Effective October 1, 2001, sets payment rates for diagnostic examinations and dental x-rays for children at the lower of the submitted charge or 85 percent of the median of 1999 charges. Allows the commissioner to designate dentists and dental clinics as critical access providers, and to increase reimbursement to these providers by 50 percent above what they would otherwise receive. Provide criteria for review and requires the commissioner to adjust prepaid health plan rates to reflect increased reimbursement to critical access providers. Also makes a technical change.
- 5 **Appropriation.** Appropriates money from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the dental loan forgiveness program, and to the commissioner of human services for the retired dentist program and increases in dental rates.
- 6 **Repealer.** Repeals section 256B.037, subd. 5 (relates to contracting on a prepaid basis with an organization for comprehensive health services, including dental services).
- 7 **Effective dates.** States that sections 3 and 6 are effective January 1, 2002.