

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill creates the early dental prevention initiative, which requires the commissioner of health to develop a statewide initiative to increase awareness in communities of color and recent immigrants on the importance of early dental care. The bill also creates a grant program to be administered by the commissioner to dentists and community dental clinics for adding a dental chair and necessary dental equipment.

Section

- 1 **Early dental prevention initiative.** Adds § 144.3875. (a) Requires the commissioner of health to collaborate with the commissioner of human services to implement a statewide initiative to increase awareness in certain communities on the importance of early preventive dental intervention for infants and toddlers.

(b) Requires the commissioner to develop certain educational materials and information for expectant and new parents on the importance of early dental care.

(c) Requires the commissioner to develop a distribution plan to ensure materials are distributed.

(d) Requires the commissioner to work with certain groups in developing the materials.
- 2 **Grants for dental chair expansion.** Requires the commissioner to award grants to private practicing dentists or community dental clinics for adding a dental chair and necessary dental equipment. Provides for requirements for eligibility for the grant and requires the commissioner to award grants until funds are expended.

Section

- 3** **Appropriation; early dental prevention; dental chair expansion.** (a) Appropriates an unspecified amount of money to the commissioner of health for the biennium ending June 30, 2017, from the general fund for the early dental prevention initiative.
- (b) Appropriates \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2016 to the commissioner of health from the general fund for dental chair expansion grants.