

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill directs the commissioner of health to establish a pilot program to provide educational materials and implement strategies to encourage early preventive dental care for infants and toddlers, in five designated communities of color or recent immigrant communities.

Section

1 Early dental prevention pilot program. Paragraph (a) directs the commissioner of health to implement a pilot program to encourage early preventive dental care for infants and toddlers. Directs the commissioner to award grants to five designated communities of color or recent immigrants to participate in the program, at least two of which must be outside the metro area.

Paragraph (b) directs the commissioner, in consultation with members of the designated communities, to ensure that educational materials on the importance of early dental care are distributed to expectant and new parents in the designated communities.

Paragraph (c) directs the commissioner to work with members of each designated community to ensure educational materials are distributed and to develop strategies, including incentives, for encouraging and providing early preventive dental care to infants and toddlers.

Paragraph (d) directs the commissioner to develop measurable outcomes, establish baselines for measurement, and evaluate whether the educational materials, strategies, and incentives increased the numbers of infants and toddlers who received early preventive dental care.

Section

Paragraph (e) requires the commissioner to provide a report on the pilot program to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health care.

- 2 **Appropriation.** Makes a blank appropriation in fiscal year 2017 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the early preventive dental care pilot program.