

SENATE, No. 809

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 18, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Health Establishes Office of State Dental Director and New Jersey Oral Commission

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



S809 PENNACCHIO

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1 AN ACT concerning oral health services, amending R.S.45:6-1, and
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. (New section) There is established within the Department of
8 Health the Office of the State Dental Director. The State Dental
9 Director shall be appointed by the Governor in consultation with the
10 New Jersey Dental Association. The director shall be a dentist or a
11 dental hygienist licensed in New Jersey who has practiced in the
12 State for at least 10 years. The director may serve in a volunteer or
13 salaried capacity.

14

15 2. (New section) a. The State Dental Director shall:

16 (1) Develop and facilitate models of public and private
17 partnerships for oral health awareness campaigns to improve the
18 access, acceptability, and use of oral health services in this State;

19 (2) Serve as an information and resource center for specific oral
20 health information and data concerning oral health and disseminate
21 such data to interested parties;

22 (3) In consultation with the Commissioner of Health, review,
23 recommend, and develop, or cause to be developed, appropriate oral
24 health education materials and disseminate the materials to local
25 school districts throughout the State;

26 (4) In collaboration with appropriate State agencies and private
27 organizations, provide, or cause to be provided, assistance to Early
28 Head Start and Head Start programs and local school districts to
29 develop programs in Head Start programs and elementary and
30 secondary schools that stress good nutrition, sound oral hygiene,
31 and healthy lifestyles, as well as the prevention of oral disease;

32 (5) Serve as an advocate for the adoption and implementation of
33 effective measures to improve the oral health of State residents and
34 eliminate disparities among the various racial and ethnic
35 populations of this State concerning access to high-quality oral
36 health care, utilization of oral health care services, and oral health
37 status;

38 (6) Develop recommendations for the most effective means of
39 providing outreach to communities throughout the State to ensure
40 their maximum participation in publicly-funded oral health
41 programs; and

42 (7) Evaluate oral health programs in other states to assess their
43 efficacy and potential for replication in this State, and make
44 recommendations regarding the adoption of such programs, as
45 appropriate.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

S809 PENNACCHIO

1 b. The director may apply for and accept any grant of money
2 from the federal government, private foundations, or other sources,
3 which may be available for programs related to oral health. Monies
4 may be used from private sources to pay for the salary of the
5 director and to implement the recommendations of the director and
6 the New Jersey Oral Health Commission established under section 3
7 of this act.

8 c. The director shall be in charge of all dental health activities
9 and programs that are in or overseen by the Department of Health.

10 d. The director shall report annually to the Governor and,
11 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
12 Legislature, on the work of the director and the New Jersey Oral
13 Health Commission and on the status of oral health in the State.

14

15 3. (New section) a. There is established in the Department of
16 Health the New Jersey Oral Health Commission, which shall
17 develop and promote recommendations for policies, events, and
18 awareness campaigns to improve the condition of oral health in this
19 State.

20 b. The commission shall comprise 15 members, to be appointed
21 as follows:

22 (1) The State Dental Director, who shall serve as chairperson of
23 the commission;

24 (2) The Commissioners of Banking and Insurance, Children and
25 Families, Education, and Human Services, or their designees, who
26 shall serve ex officio; and

27 (3) 10 public members, who shall be appointed by the Governor
28 as follows: one member upon the recommendation of the New
29 Jersey Dental Association; one member upon the recommendation
30 of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric
31 Dentistry; one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
32 Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; one member upon
33 the recommendation of the Medical Society of New Jersey; one
34 member upon the recommendation of the Rutgers School of Dental
35 Medicine; one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
36 Dental Hygienists' Association; one member upon the
37 recommendation of the New Jersey Dental Assistants' Association;
38 one member upon the recommendation of the Arc of New Jersey;
39 and two members upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
40 Association of Health Plans, one of whom shall represent Medicaid
41 managed care organizations and one of whom shall represent the
42 dental insurance industry.

43 c. The public members shall serve for a term of five years,
44 except that, of the 10 public members first appointed, the first three
45 members appointed shall serve for a term of three years, the second
46 three members appointed shall serve for a term of four years, and
47 the next four members appointed shall serve for a term of five
48 years. A public member is eligible to be reappointed to the

S809 PENNACCHIO

1 commission. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring in the
2 membership of the commission for any reason other than the
3 expiration of the term shall have a term of appointment for the
4 unexpired term only. All vacancies shall be filled in the same
5 manner as the original appointment.

6 d. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable
7 following the appointment of its members. The chairperson shall
8 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

9 e. Members of the commission shall serve without
10 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses
11 incurred in the performance of their duties.

12 f. The commission shall meet at least twice per calendar year,
13 and at such other times as the chairperson shall designate.

14 g. The Department of Health shall provide staff services and
15 other necessary support to the commission. The commission may
16 also request the assistance and services of the employees of any
17 State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission,
18 task force, or agency as it may require and as may be available to it
19 for its purposes.

20

21 4. R.S.45:6-1 is amended to read:

22 45:6-1. The State Board of Registration and Examination in
23 Dentistry in the Division of Professional Boards of the Department
24 of Law and Public Safety, hereinafter in this chapter designated as
25 the "board," created and established by an act entitled "An act to
26 regulate the practice of dentistry in the State of New Jersey, and to
27 repeal certain acts now relating to the same," approved March 31,
28 1915 (L.1915, c.146, p.261), as amended and supplemented, is
29 continued, and shall hereafter be known and designated as the New
30 Jersey State Board of Dentistry. Wherever in any law, rule,
31 regulation, judicial or administrative proceeding or otherwise,
32 reference is made to the State Board of Registration and
33 Examination in Dentistry, the same shall mean and refer to the New
34 Jersey State Board of Dentistry.

35 In addition to the State Dental Director or the director's
36 designee, who shall serve ex officio, and two public members, the
37 board shall consist of nine members, eight of whom shall have
38 resided and practiced dentistry in this State for at least 10 years
39 each immediately preceding their appointments and one of whom
40 shall be a dental hygienist appointed by the Governor for a term of
41 4 years. In appointing such dental hygienist, the Governor shall
42 give due consideration to, but shall not be bound by, the
43 recommendation of the New Jersey Dental Hygienists Association.
44 Upon the expiration of the term of office of any member, **[his]** the
45 member's successor shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to
46 the provisions of section 45:1-2 of this Title, for a term of 4 years,
47 except that the successors of the members whose terms will expire
48 on June 4, 1949, shall be appointed each for a term expiring on

1 August 31, 1952; the successors of the members whose terms will
2 expire on November 9, 1949, and January 7, 1950, respectively,
3 shall be appointed each for a term expiring on August 31, 1953; the
4 successors of the members whose terms will expire on July 31,
5 1950, and October 8, 1950, respectively, shall be appointed each for
6 a term expiring on August 31, 1954; and the successors of the
7 members whose terms will expire on July 30, 1951, and November
8 4, 1951, respectively, shall be appointed each for a term expiring on
9 August 31, 1955. Each member shall hold **his** office until **his**
10 the member's successor is appointed and qualifies. Any vacancy in
11 the membership of the board, occurring from any cause, shall be
12 filled by the Governor for the unexpired term only. Upon cause
13 being shown **before him**, the Governor may remove a member
14 from office upon proven charges of inefficiency, incompetency,
15 immorality, or professional misconduct.
16 (cf: P.L.1979, c.46, s.22)

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18 5. This act shall take effect on the 90th day following
19 enactment.

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22 STATEMENT

23
24 This bill establishes the Office of the State Dental Director. The
25 State Dental Director will be appointed by the Governor in
26 consultation with the New Jersey Dental Association, and will be a
27 licensed dentist or dental hygienist who has practiced in New Jersey
28 for at least 10 years.

29 The State Dental Director will be responsible for developing and
30 facilitating model public and private partnerships for oral health
31 awareness campaigns to improve the access, acceptability, and use of
32 oral health services in this State. The director will additionally serve
33 as an information and resource center for specific oral health
34 information and data concerning oral health, and will disseminate such
35 data to interested parties.

36 In consultation with the Commissioner of Health, the director is to
37 review, recommend, and develop appropriate oral health education
38 materials and disseminate the materials to local school districts
39 throughout the State. In collaboration with appropriate State agencies
40 and private organizations, the director is to assist in developing
41 programs in Head Start programs and elementary and secondary
42 schools that stress good nutrition, sound oral hygiene, healthy
43 lifestyles, and the prevention of oral disease.

44 The director will serve as an advocate for the adoption and
45 implementation of effective measures to improve oral health and
46 eliminate disparities among the various racial and ethnic populations
47 of this State concerning access to high-quality oral health care,
48 utilization of oral health care services, and oral health status. The

S809 PENNACCHIO

1 director will develop recommendations for the most effective means of
2 providing community outreach to ensure maximum participation in
3 publicly-funded oral health programs, evaluate oral health programs in
4 other states to assess their efficacy and potential for replication in this
5 State, and make recommendations regarding the adoption of such
6 programs.

7 The director will be in charge of all dental health activities and
8 programs that are in or overseen by the Department of Health, and
9 the director or a designee will serve as an additional, ex officio
10 member of the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry.

11 The director may apply for and accept any grant of money from
12 the federal government, private foundations, or other sources, which
13 may be available for programs related to oral health.

14 Additionally, the bill establishes the New Jersey Oral Health
15 Commission in the Department of Health. The commission will be
16 required to develop and promote recommendations for policies,
17 events, and awareness campaigns to improve the condition of oral
18 health in this State. The commission will comprise 15 members,
19 including the State Dental Director, who will serve as chairperson
20 of the commission; the Commissioners of Banking and Insurance,
21 Children and Families, Education, and Human Services, or their
22 designees, who shall serve ex officio; and 10 public members, to be
23 appointed by the Governor upon the recommendations of groups
24 representing various aspects of the health care and dental care
25 industry. The public members will serve for a term of five years,
26 except that, of the 10 public members first appointed, the first three
27 members appointed will serve for a term of three years, the second
28 three members appointed will serve for a term of four years, and the
29 next four members appointed will serve for a term of five years. A
30 public member is eligible to be reappointed to the commission, and
31 vacancies will be filled in the same manner as the original
32 appointment.

33 Members of the commission will serve without compensation,
34 but will be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
35 performance of their duties. The commission will meet at least
36 twice per calendar year, and at such other times as the chairperson
37 designates. The Department of Health will provide staff services
38 and other necessary support to the commission.

39 The director is to report annually to the Governor and the
40 Legislature on the work of the director and the commission and on
41 the status of oral health in the State.