

# SENATE BILL 169

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7lr1458

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By: **Senators Middleton and Kasemeyer**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2017

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Cost of Emergency Room Visits to**  
3 **Treat Dental Conditions – Study**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct a  
5 study to determine the annual cost of emergency room visits to treat dental  
6 conditions of adult enrollees in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; requiring  
7 the Department to conduct the study in a certain manner, report the findings of the  
8 study to the General Assembly on or before a certain date, and distribute the report  
9 to certain stakeholders or a certain coalition of stakeholders; and generally relating  
10 to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and emergency room visits to treat  
11 dental conditions.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
13 That:

14 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall conduct a study to  
15 determine the annual cost of emergency room visits to treat dental conditions of adult  
16 enrollees in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

17 (b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the  
18 Department shall:

19 (1) use emergency room utilization data from the Health Services Cost  
20 Review Commission to determine for adult Medical Assistance enrollees:

21 (i) the annual cost of emergency room visits for dental health care  
22 treatment for all dental conditions by zip code and county; and

23 (ii) the annual cost of emergency room visits for dental health care  
24 treatment for chronic dental conditions by zip code and county;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (2)     evaluate whether there may be underreporting of dental–related  
2 diagnoses in the emergency room utilization data from the Health Services Cost Review  
3 Commission; and

4                   (3)     identify methods to improve the reporting and analysis of the data  
5 relating to utilization of emergency rooms for treatment of dental conditions.

6           (c)     (1)     On or before December 1, 2017, the Department shall report to the  
7 General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the  
8 findings of the study conducted under subsection (a) of this section.

9                   (2)     The Department shall distribute the report to any local stakeholders,  
10 or coalition of stakeholders, with an interest in using the emergency room data for their  
11 region of the State to improve access to dental services for adult enrollees in the Maryland  
12 Medical Assistance Program.

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
14 1, 2017.