

LFC Requester:	Eric Chenier
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2017 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply:

Original	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date	<u>2-12-17</u>
Correction	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill No:	<u>HB264</u>

Sponsor:	<u>Representative Dennis J. Roch Senator Daniel A. Ivey-Soto</u>	Agency Code:	<u>924</u>
Short Title:	<u>ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE ACT</u>	Person Writing	<u>Aguilar/Cassel</u>
		Phone:	<u>827-6519</u>
		Email	<u>PaulJ.Aguilar@state.nm.us</u>

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY17	FY18		
	None Noted		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

House Bill 264 (HB264) amends and enacts new sections to the Dental Care Act to establish the profession of dental therapist, which includes:

- monitoring of dental therapy,
- regulation and issuance of licenses,
- scope and location of practice, and

- supervision of dental therapists and community dental health coordinators.

The bill is the result of the work of a dental care task force established through 2015 Senate Memorial 136, consisting of members of the legislature, dentists, dental hygienists, and representatives of Health Action New Mexico.

HB264 adds new terms and definitions: “collaborative dental therapy agreement,” “commercial dental service organization,” “dental therapist,” “federally qualified health center,” “federally qualified health center look-alike facility,” and “long-term care facility” to the definitions provided in Section 61-5A-4 NMSA 1978.

HB264 further enacts a new section of the Public Health Act to establish an office of State Dental Director, adding a dental health care subcommittee to the Legislative Finance Committee.

HB264 further enacts a new section of the Public Health Act to require the New Mexico department of health (DOH) to investigate and recommend legislative actions related to statewide dental health care access in a written report by October 2018, and each October thereafter to the legislative finance committee. The report would include status of dental health care professional education loan-for-service programming, the feasibility of establishing a program allowing Bachelor of Arts degree recipients to matriculate directly into dental school, the status of the state’s Medicaid program and the number of dental health care professionals taking advantage of the rural health care practitioner tax credit.

A temporary provision to HB264 requires the DOH to consult with various agencies and to provide an outcome report on the multiple components of this act to the legislative health and human services committee after 5 years.

HB264 further enacts a new section of the public school code to require schools as of July 1, 2020, to emphasize to parents the importance of each student obtaining a dental examination that meets standards established pursuant to department rules prior to initial enrollment. The rules shall specify that students obtain dental examinations at their own expense or at the expense of any dental health coverage they may have.

HB264 amends sections of the public assistance act and the nonprofit health care plan law to provide for reimbursement of dental therapy, provided by licensed dental therapists, and requires the DOH to conduct a five year study on dental therapy practice in the state.

HB264 becomes effective on June 16, 2017 for Sections 1-13 and 15-19; section 14 becomes effective on June 16, 2019.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB264 appropriates no funding to amend or to execute changes to the Dental Care Act, to the DOH to conduct its study and report, or to the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) to adopt and promulgate new rules regulating the requirement of schools to emphasize to parents the importance of each student obtaining a dental examination prior to initial enrollment. The PED would need to oversee assurance that schools emphasize to parents the importance of each student obtaining a dental examination prior to initial enrollment enacted in this bill. No funds are provided in HB264 to support additional staff persons needed for such oversight.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

While there are number of positive provisions of this bill, the creation of a State Dental Director and the promulgation of rules to “emphasize to parents the importance of students obtaining a dental examination prior to enrollment in school that meets standards established by the PED” is an unnecessary expansion of government and an unneeded implementation of additional rules to insure parents are provided information.

Section 15 of HB264 enacts a new rule in the Public School Code that requires schools to emphasize to parents the importance of students obtaining a dental examination **prior to enrollment in school** that meets standards established by the PED. **This would add enrollment requirements** beyond the current state statute, specifically § 24-5-2, NMSA 1978, which requires all New Mexican children to be immunized as per the rules and regulations of the public health division and DOH and be able to provide evidence of such immunization in order to enroll in school. To preclude a child from enrolling because parents were not informed of the importance of have a dental examination is burdensome and not realistic.

New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 6.12.2 and § 24-5-4, NMSA 1978 require school district superintendents and charter school directors to prepare, maintain as current, and provide records to prove the immunization status of every child that attends school under their specific jurisdiction. These laws also mandate that such administrators report to the public health division any parent or guardian who neglects or refuses to permit his/her child to be immunized. A similar process would need to be identified in relation to schools providing assurance that they emphasized the importance of students’ dental examination requirements prior to school enrollment as stipulated in HB264. HB264 further requires the PED to report on the student compliance to this provision through data analysis, reported to the legislative committees annually.

In regard to creating a state dental director (dental provider), the Office of Oral Health exists within the DOH, staffed by public health, dental providers, social workers and contracts with a dentist to assist with its operations. This appears to an unnecessary expansion of government.

According to a Kaiser Family Foundation report, the Health Professional Shortage Area for New Mexico is greater than 67 percent, making the state 37th among all states in provision of healthcare professionals (<http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/dental-care-health-professional-shortage-areas-hpsas/?currentTimeframe=0>).

The New Mexico 2015 Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) data results indicated that 73.5 percent of high school students, Grades 9 through 12, with a slighter lesser percentage of middle school students, had seen a dentist during the past year (www.youthrisk.org).

It is unclear in HB264 if in a situation where a student who transfers from one local education agency to another and the student’s parents do not receive school emphasis concerning the importance of a dental examination, if this student would then be disenrolled or considered truant.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as reauthorized by Title X, Part C of the Every Student Succeeds Act, requires all local education authorities (LEAs) to enroll students, who may be identified as homeless, in foster care or migrant, immediately, even without normally

required documentation, including school records, medical or immunization records, among others. To require that schools provide the importance of a dental examination to the parents of such students prior to enrollment would contravene the law. States and LEAs must maintain policies that remove barriers to school enrollment or retention of homeless children and youth (<http://nche.ed.gov/legis/mv.php>).

The federal government has designated all or part of 32 counties of New Mexico as Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (<http://hpsafind.hrsa.gov/HPSASearch.aspx>). The DOH Office of Oral Health expresses concern about the availability of dental healthcare providers for all school children, especially in rural areas of the state. Additionally, the question has been raised as to what treatment would be required for children, following a dental exam, who would be able to provide such treatment and at what costs. A further concern would be in whether students would be denied access to an education in the event of a shortage of dental therapy personnel available to provide any treatment.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The regulation of the new profession would be needed through the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing department (RLD). The implications of this requirement are difficult to predict.

HB264 requires the Secretary of the PED to adopt and promulgate rules that require public schools to provide emphasis concerning the importance of dental examinations to students' parents for students to enroll in schools. The bill further requires the PED to provide statewide education on the requirements for dental examination and to disseminate information to parents and guardians on available resources for authorized healthcare professionals to perform such exams. The PED currently has no specific staff or resources dedicated to dental therapy, examination or hygiene regulations or best practice information.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Concerns in relation to HB264 would also include the availability of treatment for children referred for dental therapy, who would provide such treatment, and the associated costs. Also of concern are potential cases of students that are new enrollees, whose parents do not receive a schools' emphasis on the importance of dental examinations, and how this may affect a student's enrollment or whether or not truancy would be considered in the case where a student is not immediately enrolled.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Not enacting HB264 would leave the Dental Care Act, related NMSA statutes and the public school code unaltered in reference to dental care for New Mexicans. Public school enrollment requirements would not change to include proof of a dental examination as a prerequisite for enrollment.