

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2085

By Representative Fagan of Taunton and Senator Chandler, joint petition of James H. Fagan and others relative to the appointment of dental director within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services for the improvement oral health in the Commonwealth. Public Health.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

James H. Fagan	Jarrett T. Barrios
Harriette L. Chandler	Gale D. Candaras
John P. Fresolo	Mark C. Montigny
Jennifer L. Flanagan	Richard T. Moore
Christine E. Canavan	Pamela P. Resor
Louis L. Kafka	Bruce E. Tarr
Kevin G. Honan	James E. Timilty
Michael F. Rush	Stephen R. Canessa
William Lantigua	Elizabeth A. Malia
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	Steven J. D'Amico
William N. Brownsberger	Patricia D. Jehlen
Frank I. Smizik	Robert A. O'Leary
Denise Provost	Susan C. Tucker
John W. Scibak	Kay Khan
Ruth B. Balsler	Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.
Robert P. Spellane	Barbara A. L'Italien
Edward M. Augustus, Jr.	David B. Sullivan
Mark R. Pacheco	Cleon H. Turner
Stephen M. Brewer	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE IMPROVEMENT, PREVENTION AND PROTECTION  
OF THE ORAL HEALTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby amended
- 2 by inserting after section 16C the following 2 sections:—
- 3 Section 16D(a). In order to improve, promote and protect the oral
- 4 health of all residents of the Commonwealth, a full-time dental
- 5 director shall be located in the executive office of health and human
- 6 services and shall work collaboratively with the department of
- 7 public health to facilitate integration of programs to improve oral

8 health. The director shall be funded through an interagency agree-  
9 ment between the executive office of health and human services and  
10 the department of public health.

11 (b) The full-time dental director shall be a Massachusetts licensed  
12 dentist with public health experience and shall oversee the  
13 MassHealth dental program and work in collaboration with the  
14 office of oral health within the Massachusetts department of health  
15 on dental public health programs for MassHealth recipients to  
16 increase access, oral health prevention activities, and other initiatives  
17 to address oral health disparities, including, but not limited to work-  
18 force shortages.

19 Section 16E(a) The department of public health shall have an  
20 office of oral health with responsibility for the following, though not  
21 limited to, oral public health activities:

22 1) Provide recommendations and guidance to the department and  
23 other state departments, agencies, community providers, the legisla-  
24 ture and others for preventing oral diseases of all Massachusetts resi-  
25 dents and for improving, promoting and protecting the oral health of  
26 state residents with a focus on underserved populations and reducing  
27 oral health disparities;

28 2) Surveillance, study and appraisal of the state's oral health  
29 needs and resources;

30 3) Foster the development, expansion and evaluation of oral  
31 health services for residents of the state in collaboration with key  
32 state partners, including, but not limited to other executive office of  
33 health and human services agencies and departments, including but  
34 not limited to MassHealth, department of youth services, department  
35 of social services, department of mental retardation, department of  
36 mental health and the executive office of elderly affairs, board of  
37 registration in dentistry, and other public agencies including, but not  
38 limited to department of education and department of early educa-  
39 tion and care;

40 4) Provide information and education concerning oral health to  
41 the dental and health community and public;

42 5) Promote and provide technical assistance, monitoring and eval-  
43 uation of population-based dental programs, such as community  
44 water fluoridation and school prevention programs and mobile and  
45 portable dental programs, as well as other programs to improve  
46 access to services;

47 6) Policy development to promote the public's oral health;  
48 7) Other related programs, policies and preventive measures that  
49 impact oral health.

50 (b) Subject to appropriation, the office of oral health shall have  
51 the following staff and resources in order to fully implement the  
52 above mentioned activities:

53 1) 1 full time equivalent of director of the office of oral health  
54 within the Massachusetts department of public health to coordinate  
55 activities, including, but not limited to the ones outlined above. This  
56 person shall be a licensed dental professional with a public health  
57 advanced degree.

58 2) 1 full time equivalent of a fluoridation engineer who will con-  
59 duct assessments of all existing fluoridation equipment and recom-  
60 mend upgrades and who will provide surveillance of existing  
61 fluoridation systems. This position shall be located in the division  
62 of environmental protection and shall work collaboratively with the  
63 office of oral health and shall be funded through an interagency  
64 agreement with the division of environmental protection.

65 3) 1 full time equivalent of administrative assistant for the office  
66 of oral health to carry out administrative duties and data entry.

67 4) 2 full time equivalent program specialists to support public  
68 health programs that focus on oral health in underserved populations  
69 including but not limited to the issues of elders and other under-  
70 served populations and prevention and access to care programs, such  
71 as mobile and portable oral health programs and community health  
72 centers.

73 5) Funding for the promotion and implementation of fluoridation  
74 in Massachusetts communities that are not currently fluoridated or to  
75 upgrade current fluoridation equipment. Funds remaining after allo-  
76 cation for implementation of fluoridation and upgrading current flu-  
77 oridation equipment shall be used to support community based oral  
78 health preventative programs.

1 SECTION 2. The office of oral health shall evaluate programs  
2 and develop quality assurance activities, including, but not limited  
3 to, an update on progress to date on the recommendations of the  
4 2000 report of the special legislative commission on oral health.  
5 The update shall be delivered to the house and senate chairs of the  
6 joint committee on public health on or before May 1, 2008.