

CHAPTER 308

(House Bill 1184)

AN ACT concerning

~~African American Male Oral Cancer Initiative~~ Oral Health Programs -
Reducing Oral Cancer Mortality

~~FOR the purpose of requiring the Office of Oral Health in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish an African American Male Oral Cancer Initiative; requiring the Office of Oral Health to perform certain functions under the Initiative to increase prevention, detection, and treatment of oral cancer among African American men; requiring the Department to obtain funding for the Initiative from the Cigarette Restitution Fund; and generally relating to the African American Male Oral Cancer Initiative.~~

FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish the Oral Health Program to prevent and detect oral cancer in the State with a certain focus and intent; targeting the program to the needs of high-risk underserved populations; requiring the Secretary, in consultation with certain providers, to develop and implement certain programs to train health care providers to screen and refer patients with oral cancers and to promote certain smoking cessation programs; requiring the Secretary to establish the Prevent Oral Cancer Pilot Program to screen, refer, and treat certain adults; providing that the pilot program may be undertaken in conjunction with certain other initiatives; requiring the Secretary to evaluate the pilot program and to submit certain reports annually to the Governor and the General Assembly; requiring the Oral Health Advisory Committee to make certain recommendations; providing for the funding of certain programs established under the provisions of this Act; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to the Oral Health Program and the Prevent Oral Cancer Pilot Program.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section ~~18-205~~ 18-801 through 18-803 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 8.
Oral Health Program"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

~~WHEREAS, Between 1973 and 1992, the incidence of oral cancer in the United States increased 21.1% among African Americans as opposed to 8.3% in whites, while the mortality rate decreased in the general population but increased 10.9% in African American males;~~

~~WHEREAS, In Maryland the mortality rate for oral cancer among African Americans is 75% higher than among African Americans in the United States as a whole;~~