

~~WHEREAS, Early detection is associated with longer survival; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Tobacco use is implicated in 75% of all oral cancers in the United States; now, therefore,~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

~~18-305.~~

~~(A) THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH SHALL ESTABLISH AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN ORAL CANCER INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE SCREENING, EARLY DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT OF ORAL CANCER IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN.~~

~~(B) UNDER THE INITIATIVE, THE OFFICE OF ORAL HEALTH, IN CONSULTATION WITH DENTAL PROVIDERS SERVING AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN, SHALL:~~

~~(1) INVESTIGATE THE PREVALENCE OF ORAL CANCER AMONG AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN AND IDENTIFY RISK FACTORS THAT MAY EXPLAIN THE CORRELATION;~~

~~(2) DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND OTHER STRATEGIES TO PREVENT THE DISEASE AND REDUCE THE RISK FACTORS AMONG AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN;~~

~~(3) EXPAND MEDICAL COVERAGE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF ORAL CANCER SCREENING AND EARLY DETECTION METHODS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN;~~

~~(4) INCREASE ACCESS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN TO ORAL CANCER TREATMENT; AND~~

~~(5) ENGAGE IN OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT REDUCE THE INCIDENCE AND IMPACT OF ORAL CANCER AMONG AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN.~~

~~(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL OBTAIN FUNDING FOR THE INITIATIVE FROM THE CIGARETTE RESTITUTION FUND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-317(F)(1)(VIII) OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.~~

SUBTITLE 8. ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM.

18-801.

THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH AND PROMOTE THE ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM TO PREVENT AND DETECT ORAL CANCER IN THE STATE, WITH A PRIMARY FOCUS OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF HIGH-RISK UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS, WITH THE INTENT TO REDUCE ORAL CANCER MORTALITY.