

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3706**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 12, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Office of State Dental Director and New Jersey Oral Health Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/8/2024)**

1 AN ACT concerning oral health services, amending R.S.45:6-1, and  
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
7 1. (New section) There is established within the Department  
8 of Health the Office of the State Dental Director. The State Dental  
9 Director shall be appointed by the Governor in consultation with the  
10 New Jersey Dental Association. The director shall be a dentist or a  
11 dental hygienist licensed in New Jersey who has practiced in the  
12 State for at least 10 years. The director may serve in a volunteer or  
13 salaried capacity.

14  
15 2. (New section) a. The State Dental Director shall:

16 (1) Develop and facilitate models of public and private  
17 partnerships for oral health awareness campaigns to improve the  
18 access, acceptability, and use of oral health services in this State;

19 (2) Serve as an information and resource center for specific oral  
20 health information and data concerning oral health and disseminate  
21 such data to interested parties;

22 (3) In consultation with the Commissioner of Health, review,  
23 recommend, and develop, or cause to be developed, appropriate oral  
24 health education materials and disseminate the materials to local  
25 school districts throughout the State;

26 (4) In collaboration with appropriate State agencies and private  
27 organizations, provide, or cause to be provided, assistance to Early  
28 Head Start and Head Start programs and local school districts to  
29 develop programs in Head Start programs and elementary and  
30 secondary schools that stress good nutrition, sound oral hygiene,  
31 and healthy lifestyles, as well as the prevention of oral disease;

32 (5) Serve as an advocate for the adoption and implementation of  
33 effective measures to improve the oral health of State residents and  
34 eliminate disparities among the various racial and ethnic  
35 populations of this State concerning access to high-quality oral  
36 health care, utilization of oral health care services, and oral health  
37 status;

38 (6) Develop recommendations for the most effective means of  
39 providing outreach to communities throughout the State to ensure  
40 their maximum participation in publicly-funded oral health  
41 programs; and

42 (7) Evaluate oral health programs in other states to assess their  
43 efficacy and potential for replication in this State, and make  
44 recommendations regarding the adoption of such programs, as  
45 appropriate.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1       b. The director may apply for and accept any grant of money  
2 from the federal government, private foundations, or other sources,  
3 which may be available for programs related to oral health. Monies  
4 may be used from private sources to pay for the salary of the  
5 director and to implement the recommendations of the director and  
6 the New Jersey Oral Health Commission established under section 3  
7 of this act.

8       c. The director shall be in charge of all dental health activities  
9 and programs that are in or are overseen by the Department of  
10 Health.

11       d. The director shall report annually to the Governor and,  
12 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the  
13 Legislature, on the work of the director and the New Jersey Oral  
14 Health Commission and on the status of oral health in the State.

15

16       3. (New section) a. There is established in the Department of  
17 Health the New Jersey Oral Health Commission, which shall  
18 develop and promote recommendations for policies, events, and  
19 awareness campaigns to improve the condition of oral health in this  
20 State.

21       b. The commission shall comprise 15 members, to be appointed  
22 as follows:

23       (1) The State Dental Director, who shall serve as chairperson of  
24 the commission;

25       (2) The Commissioners of Banking and Insurance, Children and  
26 Families, Education, and Human Services, or their designees, who  
27 shall serve ex officio; and

28       (3) 10 public members, who shall be appointed by the Governor  
29 as follows: one member upon the recommendation of the New  
30 Jersey Dental Association; one member upon the recommendation  
31 of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric  
32 Dentistry; one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey  
33 Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; one member upon  
34 the recommendation of the Medical Society of New Jersey; one  
35 member upon the recommendation of the Rutgers School of Dental  
36 Medicine; one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey  
37 Dental Hygienists' Association; one member upon the  
38 recommendation of the New Jersey Dental Assistants' Association;  
39 one member upon the recommendation of the Arc of New Jersey;  
40 and two members upon the recommendation of the New Jersey  
41 Association of Health Plans, one of whom shall represent Medicaid  
42 managed care organizations and one of whom shall represent the  
43 dental insurance industry.

44       c. The public members shall serve for a term of five years,  
45 except that, of the 10 public members first appointed, the first three  
46 members appointed shall serve for a term of three years, the second  
47 three members appointed shall serve for a term of four years, and  
48 the next four members appointed shall serve for a term of five

1 years. A public member is eligible to be reappointed to the  
2 commission. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring in the  
3 membership of the commission for any reason other than the  
4 expiration of the term shall have a term of appointment for the  
5 unexpired term only. All vacancies shall be filled in the same  
6 manner as the original appointment.

7 d. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable  
8 following the appointment of its members. The chairperson shall  
9 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

10 e. Members of the commission shall serve without  
11 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses  
12 incurred in the performance of their duties.

13 f. The commission shall meet at least twice per calendar year,  
14 and at such other times as the chairperson shall designate.

15 g. The Department of Health shall provide staff services and  
16 other necessary support to the commission. The commission may  
17 also request the assistance and services of the employees of any  
18 State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission,  
19 task force, or agency as it may require and as may be available to it  
20 for its purposes.

21

22 4. R.S.45:6-1 is amended to read:

23 45:6-1. The State Board of Registration and Examination in  
24 Dentistry in the Division of Professional Boards of the Department  
25 of Law and Public Safety, hereinafter in this chapter designated as  
26 the "board," created and established by an act entitled "An act to  
27 regulate the practice of dentistry in the State of New Jersey, and to  
28 repeal certain acts now relating to the same," approved March 31,  
29 1915 (L.1915, c.146, p.261), as amended and supplemented, is  
30 continued, and shall hereafter be known and designated as the New  
31 Jersey State Board of Dentistry. Wherever in any law, rule,  
32 regulation, judicial or administrative proceeding or otherwise,  
33 reference is made to the State Board of Registration and  
34 Examination in Dentistry, the same shall mean and refer to the New  
35 Jersey State Board of Dentistry.

36 In addition to the State Dental Director or the director's  
37 designee, who shall serve ex officio, and two public members, the  
38 board shall consist of nine members, eight of whom shall have  
39 resided and practiced dentistry in this State for at least 10 years  
40 each immediately preceding their appointments and one of whom  
41 shall be a dental hygienist appointed by the Governor for a term of  
42 4 years. In appointing such dental hygienist, the Governor shall  
43 give due consideration to, but shall not be bound by, the  
44 recommendation of the New Jersey Dental Hygienists Association.  
45 Upon the expiration of the term of office of any member, **[his]** the  
46 member's successor shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to  
47 the provisions of section 45:1-2 of this Title, for a term of 4 years,  
48 except that the successors of the members whose terms will expire

1 on June 4, 1949, shall be appointed each for a term expiring on  
2 August 31, 1952; the successors of the members whose terms will  
3 expire on November 9, 1949, and January 7, 1950, respectively,  
4 shall be appointed each for a term expiring on August 31, 1953; the  
5 successors of the members whose terms will expire on July 31,  
6 1950, and October 8, 1950, respectively, shall be appointed each for  
7 a term expiring on August 31, 1954; and the successors of the  
8 members whose terms will expire on July 30, 1951, and November  
9 4, 1951, respectively, shall be appointed each for a term expiring on  
10 August 31, 1955. Each member shall hold **his** office until **his**  
11 the member's successor is appointed and qualifies. Any vacancy in  
12 the membership of the board, occurring from any cause, shall be  
13 filled by the Governor for the unexpired term only. Upon cause  
14 being shown **before him**, the Governor may remove a member  
15 from office upon proven charges of inefficiency, incompetency,  
16 immorality, or professional misconduct.  
17 (cf: P.L.1979, c.46, s.22)

18  
19 5. This act shall take effect on the 90th day following  
20 enactment.

21

22

23

#### STATEMENT

24

25 This bill establishes the Office of the State Dental Director. The  
26 State Dental Director will be appointed by the Governor in  
27 consultation with the New Jersey Dental Association, and will be a  
28 licensed dentist or dental hygienist who has practiced in New Jersey  
29 for at least 10 years.

30 The State Dental Director will be responsible for developing and  
31 facilitating model public and private partnerships for oral health  
32 awareness campaigns to improve the access, acceptability, and use of  
33 oral health services in this State. The director will additionally serve  
34 as an information and resource center for specific oral health  
35 information and data concerning oral health, and will disseminate such  
36 data to interested parties.

37 In consultation with the Commissioner of Health, the director is to  
38 review, recommend, and develop appropriate oral health education  
39 materials and disseminate the materials to local school districts  
40 throughout the State. In collaboration with appropriate State agencies  
41 and private organizations, the director is to assist in developing  
42 programs in Head Start programs and elementary and secondary  
43 schools that stress good nutrition, sound oral hygiene, healthy  
44 lifestyles, and the prevention of oral disease.

45 The director will serve as an advocate for the adoption and  
46 implementation of effective measures to improve oral health and  
47 eliminate disparities among the various racial and ethnic populations  
48 of this State concerning access to high-quality oral health care,

1 utilization of oral health care services, and oral health status. The  
2 director will develop recommendations for the most effective means of  
3 providing community outreach to ensure maximum participation in  
4 publicly-funded oral health programs, evaluate oral health programs in  
5 other states to assess their efficacy and potential for replication in this  
6 State, and make recommendations regarding the adoption of such  
7 programs.

8 The director will be in charge of all dental health activities and  
9 programs that are in or overseen by the Department of Health, and  
10 the director or a designee will serve as an additional, ex officio  
11 member of the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry.

12 The director may apply for and accept any grant of money from  
13 the federal government, private foundations, or other sources, which  
14 may be available for programs related to oral health.

15 Additionally, the bill establishes the New Jersey Oral Health  
16 Commission in the Department of Health. The commission will be  
17 required to develop and promote recommendations for policies,  
18 events, and awareness campaigns to improve the condition of oral  
19 health in this State. The commission will comprise 15 members,  
20 including the State Dental Director, who will serve as chairperson  
21 of the commission; the Commissioners of Banking and Insurance,  
22 Children and Families, Education, and Human Services, or their  
23 designees, who shall serve ex officio; and 10 public members, to be  
24 appointed by the Governor upon the recommendations of groups  
25 representing various aspects of the health care and dental care  
26 industry. The public members will serve for a term of five years,  
27 except that, of the 10 public members first appointed, the first three  
28 members appointed will serve for a term of three years, the second  
29 three members appointed will serve for a term of four years, and the  
30 next four members appointed will serve for a term of five years. A  
31 public member is eligible to be reappointed to the commission, and  
32 vacancies will be filled in the same manner as the original  
33 appointment.

34 Members of the commission will serve without compensation,  
35 but will be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
36 performance of their duties. The commission will meet at least  
37 twice per calendar year, and at such other times as the chairperson  
38 designates. The Department of Health will provide staff services  
39 and other necessary support to the commission.

40 The director is to report annually to the Governor and the  
41 Legislature on the work of the director and the commission and on  
42 the status of oral health in the State.