

1 H.328

2 Introduced by Representative Till of Jericho

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; dental health; dentists

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize a  
7 community dental health coordination pilot project, expand dental education in  
8 the classroom, and expand loan repayment and loan forgiveness programs for  
9 dentists.

10 An act relating to improving the oral health of Vermonters

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. COMMUNITY DENTAL HEALTH COORDINATOR PILOT

13 (a) The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the Vermont Oral  
14 Health Coalition, shall design a Community Dental Health Coordinator Pilot  
15 Project for the purpose of increasing access to oral health care by using  
16 community dental health coordinators as members of dental teams in regions  
17 of the state designated by the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall submit  
18 design recommendations for the pilot project to the House Committee on  
19 Health Care and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than  
20 January 15, 2014.

1           **(b) As used in this section:**

2           **(1) “Community dental health coordinator” means a dental assistant,**  
3           **dental hygienist, or other trained dental professional certified by the**  
4           **Commissioner of Health to provide educational services, preventive and**  
5           **limited palliative care services, and dental assessment services in a variety of**  
6           **settings under the supervision of a dentist licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A.**  
7           **§ 801.**

8           **(2) “Palliative care services” means nonsurgical, reversible procedures**  
9           **used to alleviate pain and stabilize acute or emergent problems and may**  
10          **include:**

11           **(A) placing temporary and sedative restorative material in**  
12          **unexcavated carious lesions and unprepared tooth fractures;**

13           **(B) collecting and transmitting diagnostic data and images via a**  
14          **telemetric connection;**

15           **(C) dispensing and applying medications on the specific order of a**  
16          **dentist; and**

17           **(D) providing limited services for dental emergencies, in consultation**  
18          **with a supervising dentist.**

19           **(3) “Supervision” means authorization by a dentist of procedures for a**  
20          **community dental health coordinator to use in executing the dentist’s**  
21          **treatment plan.**

1       Sec. 2. APPROPRIATIONS

2           (a) In fiscal year 2014, the sum of \$425,000.00 is appropriated from the  
3       General Fund to the Department of Health to expand participation and enhance  
4       programming in the Tooth Tutor program.

5           (b) In fiscal year 2014, the sum of \$300,000.00 is appropriated from the  
6       General Fund to the Department of Health to provide a grant to the area health  
7       education centers for the repayment of loans made to dentists who are licensed  
8       pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 13 and practice dentistry in Vermont.

9           (c) In fiscal year 2014, the sum of \$100,000.00 is appropriated from the  
10       General Fund to the Department of Health to provide a grant to the Vermont  
11       Student Assistance Corporation for the dental student incentive scholarship and  
12       loan forgiveness program.

13       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

14       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.