



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5413

LCO No. 2289



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A VETERANS DENTAL CARE ACCESS PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

2 (1) "Armed forces" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-
3 103 of the general statutes.

4 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

5 (3) (A) "Dental services" includes (i) preventive and diagnostic
6 services, such as biannual examinations and prophylaxis, (ii) restorative
7 services, such as fillings, root canals and crowns, (iii) prosthetics, such
8 as partial and complete dentures, and (iv) oral surgery, such as
9 extractions.

10 (B) "Dental services" does not include (i) dental implants, (ii) fixed
11 bridges, (iii) orthodontics, (iv) cosmetic services, such as whitening or
12 veneers, or (v) telehealth services.

13 (4) "Department" means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

14 (5) "Eligible veteran" means any veteran who (A) is a resident of the
15 state, (B) has a service-connected disability rating of less than one
16 hundred per cent and is not receiving dental care from the United States
17 Department of Veterans Affairs, and (C) has a household income at or
18 below four hundred per cent of the federal poverty level.

19 (6) "Provider" means a dental practice, dental clinic or person licensed
20 to practice dentistry or dental medicine in the state.

21 (7) "Veteran" has the same meaning as provided in section 27-103 of
22 the general statutes.

23 (b) There is established a Veterans Dental Care Access Program, to be
24 administered by the department, for the purpose of assisting eligible
25 veterans with receiving dental services from providers that participate
26 in such program. The commissioner shall consult with a state-wide
27 organization that represents licensed dentists to identify any such
28 providers willing to participate in such program, and shall coordinate
29 with such organization in administering such program and
30 implementing the provisions of this section.

31 (c) On and after January 1, 2027, any eligible veteran may submit an
32 application to the department, in a form and manner prescribed by the
33 commissioner, for assistance through the program established in
34 subsection (b) of this section. Not later than ten days after receipt of any
35 such application, the commissioner shall verify whether the applicant
36 satisfies all criteria for program eligibility and shall notify such
37 applicant of the commissioner's determination as to approval or
38 rejection of such application. Any such approval shall be for two years,
39 after which an applicant may reapply pursuant to the provisions of this
40 subsection.

41 (d) Not later than thirty days after an approval under subsection (c)
42 of this section, the commissioner shall refer the eligible veteran to a

43 participating provider for the purpose of scheduling an appointment to
44 establish or continue, as applicable, dental care and to develop a
45 treatment plan for such eligible veteran. The provider shall set forth in
46 such treatment plan the dental services recommended for the eligible
47 veteran and shall submit such treatment plan to the commissioner for
48 review. Not later than ten days after receipt of a treatment plan, the
49 commissioner shall approve or modify such treatment plan and notify
50 the provider of such approval or modification. A provider may provide
51 dental services to an eligible veteran only after such notification and
52 only in accordance with such approval or modification.

53 (e) (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision,
54 not later than five days after the provision of dental services to an
55 eligible veteran, a provider shall invoice the department for such dental
56 services. Not later than thirty days after receiving such invoice, the
57 department shall remit payment to the provider for such dental services,
58 subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection, and shall
59 advise such provider of the eligible veteran's status with regard to the
60 maximum annual benefit described in said subdivision.

61 (B) If an eligible veteran has coverage under a health insurance plan
62 for any of the dental services provided under subsection (d) of this
63 section, the provider shall invoice the health insurer for such dental
64 services and may only invoice the department for the remaining balance
65 on such dental services after exhausting all such coverage.

66 (2) The amount of dental services received by an eligible veteran for
67 which the department may remit payment under subparagraph (A) of
68 subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not exceed three thousand five
69 hundred dollars per calendar year. If an eligible veteran receives dental
70 services in a calendar year in an amount that exceeds three thousand
71 five hundred dollars, the commissioner shall refer such eligible veteran
72 to the state-wide organization described in subsection (b) of this section
73 to explore alternative sources of funds to address such excess amount.

74 (f) Not later than January 15, 2030, and annually thereafter, the
75 commissioner, in consultation with a state-wide organization that
76 represents licensed dentists, shall submit a report on the performance of
77 the Veterans Dental Care Access Program, and any recommendations
78 for improvement thereof, to the joint standing committees of the
79 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to veterans'
80 and military affairs and public health, in accordance with the provisions
81 of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

82 Sec. 2. Section 27-128 of the general statutes is repealed and the
83 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

84 The Governor may transfer, from time to time, as may be found
85 expedient, including for purposes of the administration of the Veterans
86 Dental Care Access Program established in section 1 of this act, moneys
87 existing in the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund and moneys
88 appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs from one of said
89 funds to the other of said funds.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	27-128

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a program, administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, for the purpose of assisting eligible veterans in receiving certain dental services.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]