

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1136 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY BROWN, COLLETT, LANGERHOLC, CULVER, BREWSTER, STREET, CAPPELLETTI AND J. WARD, APRIL 5, 2024

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 5, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
 2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
 3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
 4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
 5 laws relating thereto," in school health services, further
 6 providing for dental examinations and dental hygiene
 7 services.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 1403 of the act of March 10, 1949
 11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
 12 amended to read:

13 Section 1403. Dental [Examinations] Screenings and Dental
 14 Hygiene Services.--(a) [All] Notwithstanding any other
 15 provision of law, all children of school age in the
 16 Commonwealth, (i) upon original entry into the school, (ii)
 17 while in the third grade, and (iii) while in the seventh grade,
 18 shall be given a dental [examination] screening by a school
 19 dentist or public health dental hygiene practitioner: Provided,
 20 however, That this requirement shall not apply to those school

1 districts or joint school boards which have instituted a program
2 of dental hygiene services as provided in subsection (b) of this
3 section.

4 (b) Any school district or joint school board may institute
5 a program of dental hygiene services for children of school age,
6 which program shall be approved by the Secretary of Health, and
7 for that purpose may employ dental hygienists.

8 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school
9 district or joint school board that has not instituted a program
10 of dental hygiene services as provided under subsection (b) may
11 use a public health dental hygiene practitioner to satisfy the
12 requirements under this section.

13 (d) As used in this section, the term "public health dental
14 hygiene practitioner" shall have the same meaning given to that
15 term in section 2 of the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.76),
16 known as "The Dental Law."

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.