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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As amended by the General Assembly on December 3, 2015.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2015)
AN ACT 1[establishing the New Jersey Center for Oral Health and
supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes] concerning
oral health services, amending R.S.45:6-1, and supplementing Title
26 of the Revised Statutes1.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

1. 1(New section)1 There is established 1[the New Jersey
Center for Oral Health at the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine]1
within the Department of Health the Office of the State Dental
Director1. The 1[Dean of the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine,
or the dean’s designee, shall serve as the director of the center]1
State Dental Director shall be appointed by the Governor in
consultation with the New Jersey Dental Association. The director
shall be a dentist or a dental hygienist licensed in New Jersey who
has practiced in the State for at least 10 years. The director may
serve in a volunteer or salaried capacity1.

2. 1(New section)1 a. The 1[center]1 State Dental Director1
shall:
(1) Develop and facilitate 1[model] models of1 public and
private partnerships for oral health awareness campaigns to improve
the access, acceptability, and use of oral health services in this
State;
(2) Serve as an information and resource center for specific oral
health information and data concerning oral health and disseminate
such data to interested parties;
(3) In consultation with the 1[Commissioners of Education.]1
Commissioner of1 Health 1[; and Human Services]1, review,
recommend, and develop, or cause to be developed, appropriate oral
health education materials and disseminate the materials to local
school districts throughout the State;
(4) In collaboration with 1[the Commissioners of Education and
Health and other]1 appropriate1 State agencies and private
organizations, 1[as necessary and appropriate]1 provide, or cause
to be provided, assistance to Early Head Start and Head Start
programs and local school districts to develop programs in Head
Start programs and elementary and secondary schools that stress
good nutrition, sound oral hygiene, and healthy lifestyles, as well as
the prevention of oral disease;
(5) Serve as an advocate for the adoption and implementation of
effective measures to improve the oral health of State residents and

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.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
1Assembly floor amendments adopted December 3, 2015.
eliminate disparities among the various racial and ethnic populations of this State concerning access to high-quality oral health care, utilization of oral health care services, and oral health status;

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

(7) [Seek to establish a Statewide alliance with community-based agencies and organizations, health care facilities, oral health care provider organizations, and dental insurance companies to promote the objectives of the center; and

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

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

c. [In collaboration with appropriate departments of State government, the center may serve as the designated State agency for receipt of federal funds specifically designated for oral health programs] The director shall be in charge of all dental health activities and programs that are in or are overseen by the Department of Health.


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

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

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

(2) The Commissioners of Banking and Insurance, Children and Families, Education, and Human Services, or their designees, who shall serve ex officio; and
(3) 10 public members, who shall be appointed by the Governor as follows: one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Dental Association; one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry; one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; one member upon the recommendation of the Medical Society of New Jersey; one member upon the recommendation of the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine; one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Dental Hygienists’ Association; one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Dental Assistants’ Association; one member upon the recommendation of the Arc of New Jersey; and two members upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association of Health Plans, one of whom shall represent Medicaid managed care organizations and one of whom shall represent the dental insurance industry.

c. The public members shall serve for a term of five years, except that, of the 10 public members first appointed, the first three members appointed shall serve for a term of three years, the second three members appointed shall serve for a term of four years, and the next four members appointed shall serve for a term of five years. A public member is eligible to be reappointed to the commission. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring in the membership of the commission for any reason other than the expiration of the term shall have a term of appointment for the unexpired term only. All vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In addition to the State Dental Director or the director’s designee, who shall serve ex officio, and two public members, the board shall consist of nine members, eight of whom shall have resided and practiced dentistry in this State for at least 10 years each immediately preceding their appointments and one of whom shall be a dental hygienist appointed by the Governor for a term of 4 years. In appointing such dental hygienist, the Governor shall give due consideration to, but shall not be bound by, the recommendation of the New Jersey Dental Hygienists Association.

Upon the expiration of the term of office of any member, the member’s successor shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to the provisions of section 45:1-2 of this Title, for a term of 4 years, except that the successors of the members whose terms will expire on June 4, 1949, shall be appointed each for a term expiring on August 31, 1952; the successors of the members whose terms will expire on November 9, 1949, and January 7, 1950, respectively, shall be appointed each for a term expiring on August 31, 1954; and the successors of the members whose terms will expire on July 3, 1951, and November 4, 1951, respectively, shall be appointed each for a term expiring on August 31, 1955. Each member shall hold his office until his successor is appointed and qualifies. Any vacancy in the membership of the board, occurring from any cause, shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired term only. Upon cause being shown before him, the Governor may remove a member from office upon proven charges of inefficiency, incompetency, immorality, or professional misconduct.

1 (cf: P.L.1979, c.46, s.22)

'This act shall take effect on the 60th 90th day following enactment.'