

ACT 196

S.B. NO. 1046

A Bill for an Act Relating to Dental Fee Schedules Under Public Assistance Programs.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Under Chapter 7, Subchapter XIX, Title 42, Social Security Act (medicaid program), our citizens who rely upon public assistance are entitled to the same dental care as their more fortunate counterparts. The cur-

rent payments for dental fees by the department of social services and housing under the medicaid program is grossly inadequate which makes the rendering of private dental services to the poor a discouraging situation. The present fee schedule as set by the department of social services and housing in 1967 is based upon fees established by the Hawaii Dental Association in 1962. While the cost of dental care has risen dramatically in the last thirteen years, the payments for such services under public assistance programs have not equitably reflected the increase. The result is that the treatment of medicaid patients is becoming an unrealistic proposition. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish a system of reasonable and equitable guidelines for the department of social services and housing to follow in setting dental fee schedules for its payments under medicaid in order to enable dentists to prudently offset the rising costs in the delivery of adequate dental care services.

SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“Sec. 346- Dental care; reimbursement of dental services. The director of social services shall establish rules under chapter 91 concerning payment for dental care services under this chapter. The department shall pay usual and customary fees up to the maximum which federal rules permit the department to pay.

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the underscoring.*

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 2, 1975.)

*Edited accordingly.