

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1064

SENATE BILL NO. 2633

By McNally, Raymond Finney

Substituted for: House Bill No. 3294

By Vaughn, Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, relative to dental services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-5-103, is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision:

() "Adult emergency dental services" means dental services for individuals age twenty-one (21) and older to treat a dental condition that manifests itself by symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, infection or trauma, that:

(a) A prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine, could reasonably expect the absence of immediate dental attention to potentially result in:

(1) Placing the person's (or with respect to a pregnant woman, her unborn child's) health in jeopardy;

(2) Serious impairment of bodily functions;

(3) Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part; or

(b) Includes treatment of dental condition necessary for an individual to receive essential medical treatment, including, but not limited to, extraction of abscessed or periodontally involved teeth prior to an individual receiving a prosthetic heart valve, a donor organ, other replacement prosthetic devices or head and neck radiation therapy.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-5-148(a), is amended by deleting the second sentence of the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

The health care safety net provides medical assistance and dental assistance to individuals in need of medical care and dental care to adults in need of adult emergency dental services who are uninsured and who lack financial resources to secure medical and dental care.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 14, 2008



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 28th day of May 2008



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR