



STATE OF MARYLAND  
**DHMH** Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Benjamin Rush Building • Spring Grove Hospital Center  
55 Wade Avenue / Tulip Drive • Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

**2012 SESSION  
POSITION PAPER**

**BILL NO:** SB 867

**COMMITTEE:** Ways and Means Committee

**POSITION:** Support

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**Title:** State Department of Education-Oral Health Education

**Bill Analysis:** The bill requires that the State Department of Education support, facilitate, and monitor oral health education, including oral disease prevention in every county. In addition, as amended, the bill requires that on or before December 1, 2012, and every 5 years thereafter, the Department shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

**Position and Rationale:** The Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners supports SB 867 as amended. The Board is concerned with the health and safety of the citizens of Maryland and believes that oral health education is critical in the prevention of oral disease. Good oral health is essential to the overall health of our children. Severe dental problems lead to serious health issues such as cardiovascular disease and difficulty in managing diabetes. Beginning oral health education at an early age in elementary school will provide children with an understanding of good oral health, especially for those children in lower income areas. In addition, studies have shown that children who practice good oral health have a lower rate of absenteeism in school, get better grades, and are higher achievers. The school system is the ideal setting for such education.

The opinion of the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Administration.

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