

AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH; PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A DENTAL HEALTH CAREER LADDER PROGRAM THROUGH NEW MEXICO'S STATE-SUPPORTED POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. DENTAL HEALTH CAREER LADDER PROGRAM--
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION.--

A. The commission on higher education shall develop and implement by July 1, 2000 a statewide dental health career ladder program to include all appropriate state-supported post-secondary educational institutions.

B. The dental health career ladder program shall include the following programs:

- (1) dental office auxiliary training;
- (2) dental assistant certification;
- (3) dental hygienist associate degree;
- (4) dental hygienist bachelor's degree; and
- (5) dental hygienist master's degree.

C. The dental health career ladder program shall:

(1) be structured to produce trained individuals for service in geographical areas underserved in New Mexico;

(2) use existing educational programs and distribute needed training programs throughout the state;

(3) accommodate welfare-to-work clients and nontraditional students;

(4) ensure consistency in accumulation and transfer of credit hours from institution to institution and from one degree program to another;

