Rule 1200-13-13-.01 Definitions is amended by adding a new paragraph (39) and renumbering the present paragraph (39) as (40) and the following paragraphs renumbered accordingly so as amended the new paragraph (39) shall read as follows:

(39) Handicapping Malocclusion, for the purposes of determining eligibility under these regulations shall mean the presence of abnormal dental development that has at least one of the following:

(a) A medical condition and/or a nutritional deficiency with medical physiological impact, that is documented in the physician progress notes that predate the diagnosis and request for orthodontics. The condition must be non-responsive to medical treatment without orthodontic treatment.

(b) The presence of a speech pathology, that is documented in speech therapy progress notes that predate the diagnosis and request for orthodontics. The condition must be non-responsive to speech therapy without orthodontic treatment.

(c) Palatal tissue laceration from a deep impinging overbite where lower incisor teeth contact palatal mucosa. This does not include occasional biting of the cheek.

Anecdotal information is insufficient to document the presence of a handicapping malocclusion. Anecdotal information is represented by statements that are not supported by professional progress notes that the patient has difficulty with eating, chewing, or speaking. These conditions may be caused by other medical conditions in addition to the misalignment of the teeth.

Statutory Authority: T.C.A 4-5-202, 71-5-105, 71-5-109, Executive Order No. 23.

The rulemaking hearing rules set out herein were properly filed in the Department of State on the 20th day of July, 2005 and will become effective on the 3rd day of October, 2005.