

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 486 (Senator Exum)

Finance

Medical Assistance - Program Recipients - Continuity of Care

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish mechanisms to maintain continuity of care for Medicaid managed care enrollees. The department must identify a program recipient's primary care provider (PCP) at the time of enrollment. If the enrollee's PCP has a contract with a managed care organization (MCO) and the enrollee wishes to continue to receive care from the provider, the MCO must assign the enrollee to the provider. In addition, the department must facilitate identification of a PCP for a newborn child, and assure that the child's PCP participates with the mother's MCO and that the PCP who cares for the child during the newborn period is reimbursed.

The bill requires each MCO to establish a user-friendly system to quickly and efficiently identify the name of the PCP assigned to an enrollee. In addition, an MCO must allow an enrollee to request an assignment to a particular PCP or to change PCPs at any time, as long as the PCP contracts with the MCO. The bill specifies that a Medicaid MCO enrollee may disenroll from the enrollee's current MCO if: (1) there is a change of MCO ownership or the MCO terminates its contract with the State; or (2) the purpose is to maintain the enrollee's PCP because the PCP no longer has a contract with the enrollee's MCO for specified reasons.

The department must provide timely notification to the affected MCO of an enrollee's intention to disenroll.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Medical Care Policy Administration), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - March 2, 1999

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Revised - Senate Third Reader - April 5, 1999

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