

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 649

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 15, after “employers;” insert “requiring the Department of Budget and Management to conduct a certain study on the feasibility and cost and benefit to the State of creating certain tax incentives and to report its findings to the General Assembly on or before a certain date;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 7, in lines 3, 5, and 9, strike “(1)”, “(2)”, and “(3)”, respectively.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 8, after line 8, insert:

“SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Department of Budget and Management shall study the feasibility and cost and benefit to the State of creating tax incentives to:

(1) assist individuals to purchase health insurance; and

(2) assist in defraying the costs for employers to provide health insurance for their employees.

(b) In conducting the study, the Department of Budget and Management shall specifically consider:

(1) tax credits for small employers with low income workers not currently offering or providing health insurance;

(Over)

(2) tax credits for small employers that are based on the number of employees, with greater tax incentives for smaller employers;

(3) eliminating employee contributions for health insurance from being considered taxable income;

(4) allowing individuals and the self-employed to fully deduct the cost of health insurance premiums from taxable income;

(5) refundable tax credits for low income individuals who purchase health insurance; and

(6) mechanisms to require employers to continue to provide health insurance coverage for a period of time as a condition of receiving a tax credit.

(c) In conducting the study, the Department of Budget and Management may consult with the Maryland Health Care Commission, the Maryland Insurance Administration, the Department of Business and Economic Development, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, the Maryland Retailers Association, the Maryland Nonprofit Tax Policy Institute, and any other person the Department considers appropriate.

(d) The Department of Budget and Management shall report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on the findings of the study on or before December 1, 2000.”;

and in line 9, strike “3.” and substitute “4.”.