

# HOUSE BILL 1213

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By: **Delegate Mizeur**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2009

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **The 21st Century Health Eligibility Systems Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the  
4 Department of Human Resources, subject to certain limitations, to update  
5 certain computer systems used to determine eligibility and process claims for  
6 the Maryland Medical Assistance Program on or before a certain date; requiring  
7 the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the  
8 Department of Human Resources, to report to the General Assembly on or  
9 before certain dates; and generally relating to the computer eligibility system  
10 for the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

11 Preamble

12 WHEREAS, The enrollment and eligibility systems used by the Department of  
13 Human Resources are out-of-date and inadequate for properly enrolling potential  
14 recipients into the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, resulting in severe  
15 application backlogs, improper enrollments, and improper spending; and

16 WHEREAS, The Medicaid Management Information Systems used by the  
17 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene are out-of-date and inadequate for  
18 receiving and processing Medicaid and Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP)  
19 claims, resulting in poor claims management, duplicate payments for health services,  
20 and an inability to analyze program spending in order to determine efficiencies; and

21 WHEREAS, The federal government will provide the State with an enhanced  
22 federal matching rate to upgrade its computer systems and up to a 90% federal  
23 matching rate for upgrading those systems dedicated to claims processing within the  
24 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

25 WHEREAS, The Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA) was  
26 recently passed by the United States Congress as part of the reauthorization of the

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), giving states more flexibility in  
2 Medicaid and CHIP coverage for newly arrived immigrant children; and

3 WHEREAS, The State has, until now, offered coverage to these newly arrived  
4 immigrant children at full cost in the absence of federal matching funds, totaling  
5 nearly \$6,000,000 in fiscal year 2010; and

6 WHEREAS, The passage of ICHIA will soon enable the State to receive between  
7 50% and 65% federal matching funds for coverage of newly arrived immigrant children  
8 through the MCHP; and

9 WHEREAS, The combination of new federal matching dollars for coverage of  
10 immigrant children and the generous federal matching rates for eligibility upgrades  
11 means that as much as \$35,000,000 in new money can be targeted for updating  
12 computer systems; now, therefore,

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That, on or before December 31, 2012, subject to the limitations of the  
15 State budget:

16 (1) the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall update the  
17 Department's Medicaid Management Information Systems that is used for the  
18 processing of Maryland Medical Assistance Program claims; and

19 (2) the Department of Human Resources shall update the  
20 Department's Maryland Medical Assistance Program eligibility systems.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of  
22 Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the Department of Human  
23 Resources, shall report on the progress in meeting the requirements of Section 1 of  
24 this Act to the Maryland General Assembly on or before January 31, 2010, on or before  
25 January 31, 2011, and on or before January 31, 2012, in accordance with § 2-1246 of  
26 the State Government Article.

27 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2009.