

# HOUSE BILL 279

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By: **Delegate Costa**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2014

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Physicians – Payments for Office Visits**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a licensed physician from presenting or causing to be  
4 presented a claim, bill, or demand for payment for an office visit if the physician  
5 did not commence treatment within a certain amount of time; establishing a  
6 certain exception to the prohibition; authorizing a licensed physician to present  
7 or cause to be presented a claim, bill, or demand for payment for a procedure  
8 performed during a certain office visit; and generally relating to payments to  
9 licensed physicians for office visits.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Health Occupations

12 Section 14–508

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Health Occupations**

18 **14–508.**

19 **(A) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS**  
20 **SECTION, A LICENSED PHYSICIAN MAY NOT PRESENT, OR CAUSE TO BE**  
21 **PRESENTED, A CLAIM, BILL, OR DEMAND FOR PAYMENT FOR AN OFFICE VISIT IF**  
22 **THE PHYSICIAN DID NOT COMMENCE TREATMENT WITHIN 30 MINUTES AFTER**  
23 **THE TIME SCHEDULED FOR THE OFFICE VISIT.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**  
2 **SECTION, A LICENSED PHYSICIAN MAY PRESENT OR CAUSE TO BE PRESENTED A**  
3 **CLAIM, BILL, OR DEMAND FOR PAYMENT FOR A PROCEDURE PERFORMED**  
4 **DURING AN OFFICE VISIT AT WHICH THE PHYSICIAN DID NOT COMMENCE**  
5 **TREATMENT WITHIN 30 MINUTES AFTER THE TIME SCHEDULED FOR THE**  
6 **OFFICE VISIT.**

7           **(C) A LICENSED PHYSICIAN MAY PRESENT OR CAUSE TO BE PRESENTED**  
8 **A CLAIM, BILL, OR DEMAND FOR PAYMENT FOR AN OFFICE VISIT:**

9                   **(1) IF THE LICENSED PHYSICIAN IS UNABLE TO COMMENCE**  
10 **TREATMENT WITHIN 30 MINUTES AFTER THE TIME SCHEDULED FOR THE**  
11 **OFFICE VISIT DUE TO AN EMERGENCY; AND**

12                   **(2) THE LICENSED PHYSICIAN PROVIDES THE PATIENT WITH AN**  
13 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES VERIFICATION NUMBER FOR THE EMERGENCY.**

14           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 October 1, 2014.