

## Article - Insurance

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§15–12A–02. IN EFFECT

// EFFECTIVE UNTIL JUNE 1, 2016 PER CHAPTER 274 OF 2015 //

- (a) There is a Small Employer Health Benefit Plan Premium Subsidy Program.
- (b) The purposes of the Program are to:
  - (1) provide an incentive for small employers to offer and maintain a small employer health benefit plan for their employees;
  - (2) help low and moderate income employees of small employers afford small employer health benefit plan premiums;
  - (3) promote access to health care services, particularly preventive health care services that might reduce the need for emergency room care and other acute care services; and
  - (4) reduce uncompensated care in hospitals and other health care settings.
- (c) The Commission, in consultation with the Department, shall administer the Program.
- (d) The Program shall consist of subsidies, as provided under § 15–12A–03 of this subtitle, for:
  - (1) small employers that have not previously offered a small employer health benefit plan to their employees; and
  - (2) employees of small employers that have not previously offered a small employer health benefit plan to their employees.
- (e) Funding for the Program may be provided from:
  - (1) general funds; or
  - (2) the Health Care Coverage Fund established under Title 15, Subtitle 7 of the Health – General Article.
- (f) The Commission shall adopt regulations to establish:
  - (1) the eligibility requirements for small employers under the Program;
  - (2) the level of subsidies to be provided under the Program.

and

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