

## Chapter 64

**(House Bill 135)**

AN ACT concerning

**Health Insurance – Coverage for Male Sterilization – High–Deductible Health Plans**

FOR the purpose of exempting a high–deductible health plan from the prohibition on application of a deductible to coverage for male sterilization; providing for the application of this Act; requiring the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to forward a certain notice to the Department of Legislative Services within a certain time period under certain circumstances; providing for the termination of this Act under certain circumstances; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to coverage for male sterilization under health insurance.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Insurance

Section 15–826.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2017 Replacement Volume)

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

**Article – Insurance**

15–826.2.

(a) (1) In this subsection, “group” means a group that is not a group covered under a health insurance policy or contract or under a health maintenance organization contract issued or delivered to a small employer, as defined in § 31–101 of this article.

(2) This subsection applies to:

(i) insurers and nonprofit health service plans that provide hospital, medical, or surgical benefits to groups on an expense–incurred basis under health insurance policies or contracts that are issued or delivered in the State; and

(ii) health maintenance organizations that provide hospital, medical, or surgical benefits to groups under contracts that are issued or delivered in the State.

(3) This subsection does not apply to an organization that requests and receives an exclusion from coverage under § 15–826(c) of this subtitle.

(4) An entity subject to this subsection shall provide coverage for male sterilization.

(b) (1) This subsection applies to:

(i) insurers and nonprofit health service plans that provide coverage for male sterilization under individual, group, or blanket health insurance policies or contracts that are issued or delivered in the State; and

(ii) health maintenance organizations that provide coverage for male sterilization under individual or group contracts that are issued or delivered in the State.

(2) Except **AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND EXCEPT** with respect to a health benefit plan that is a grandfathered health plan, as defined in § 1251 of the Affordable Care Act, an entity subject to this subsection may not apply a copayment, coinsurance requirement, or deductible to coverage for male sterilization.

**(3) IF AN INSURED OR ENROLLEE IS COVERED UNDER A HIGH-DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLAN, AS DEFINED IN ~~26 U.S.C. § 223~~ 26 U.S.C. § 223, AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SUBSECTION MAY SUBJECT MALE STERILIZATION TO THE DEDUCTIBLE REQUIREMENT OF THE HIGH-DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLAN.**

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply retroactively and shall be applied to and interpreted to affect~~ to all policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, amended, or renewed in the State on or after ~~January 1, 2018~~ the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) This Act shall remain effective until the United States Secretary of the Treasury or other United States Treasury official determines that a high-deductible health plan that meets the coverage requirements relating to male sterilization under § 15-826.2 of the Insurance Article meets the qualifications for health savings account-qualified high-deductible health plans under the safe harbor provisions for “preventive care” under § 223(c)(2)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(b) If the United States Secretary of the Treasury or other United States Treasury official makes the determination described in subsection (a) of this section, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

(c) If the Maryland Insurance Commissioner receives notice of the determination described in subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner shall, within 5 days after receiving notice of the determination, forward a copy of the notice to the Department of Legislative Services, 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

SECTION ~~3~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

**Approved by the Governor, April 10, 2018.**