
By: Delegate Benson

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 1996

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Community-Based Health Networks - Technical and Financial Assistance**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Health Resources Planning Commission to
4 provide for a Study of Health Networks in Medically Underserved Communities;
5 determining the issues to be studied; providing for a certain report; establishing an
6 ongoing Program for the Development of Community-Based Health Networks to
7 grant certain technical and financial assistance to certain projects; requiring the
8 Commission to evaluate the networks that it assists according to certain criteria; and
9 generally relating to Health Networks in Medically Underserved Communities.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Health - General
12 Section 19-107(g) and (h)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1990 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

15 Preamble

16 WHEREAS, Healthy People 2000 delineates the fact that African Americans suffer
17 from certain diseases, including cancer, diabetes, crippling arthritis, and obesity, from
18 catastrophic disabilities brought on by strokes, heart attacks, and accidental injuries, and
19 from homicide disproportionately to their number in the general population; and

20 WHEREAS, Healthy People 2000 indicates that the quality of life experienced by
21 African Americans in their twilight years is significantly more compromised than that
22 enjoyed by the general population; and

23 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has endorsed the purpose, goals, and objectives
24 of Healthy People 2000; and

25 WHEREAS, The gap in health stakes between African Americans and the general
26 population results from social, political, economic, vocational, environmental, and
27 spiritual factors beyond the quality and quantity of medical intervention available and so
28 cannot be resolved by medical intervention alone; and

29 WHEREAS, A properly expanded definition of "health" would take these factors
30 into account; and

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1 WHEREAS, Providers are best able to improve the health status of target
2 populations when they are sensitive and responsive to its unique characteristics,
3 particularly if they are themselves representative of the community; and

4 WHEREAS, Providers are best able to improve the health status of target
5 populations when they work in networks which operate in partnership with the target
6 community; and

7 WHEREAS, African-American communities and groups have been frustrated in
8 their attempts to create and develop health networks by statutory, policy, economic, and
9 political barriers; now, therefore,

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

12 **Article - Health - General**

13 19-107.

14 (G) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT A STUDY OF HEALTH
15 NETWORKS IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

16 (2) THE STUDY SHALL:

17 (I) EXAMINE AND REVIEW CURRENT LAWS AND POLICIES FOR
18 IMPACT ON DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED
19 COMMUNITIES;

20 (II) DETERMINE WHETHER HEALTH CARE DELIVERY NETWORKS
21 IN THE STATE ARE CONTROLLED BY AND RESPONSIVE TO THE COMMUNITIES THAT
22 THEY SERVE;

23 (III) DETERMINE THE PROPORTION OF MEMBERS OF MEDICALLY
24 UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS OR POPULATIONS THAT ARE AT A HIGH RISK FOR
25 PREMATURE DEATH OR DECREASED FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY WHO PARTICIPATE IN
26 HEALTH CARE DELIVERY NETWORKS; AND

27 (IV) DETERMINE WHETHER COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CARE
28 DELIVERY NETWORKS CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF
29 PATIENTS IN THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE.

30 (3) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1998 THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT TO
31 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SUBJECT TO § 2-1312 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT
32 ARTICLE, A DETAILED REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

33 (H) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM FOR THE
34 DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH NETWORKS.

35 (2) THE PROGRAM SHALL:

36 (I) RENDER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DESIGNING,
37 IMPLEMENTING, AND EXPANDING HEALTH CARE DELIVERY NETWORKS;

3

1 (II) PROVIDE ONGOING INCENTIVES, SANCTIONS, AND OVERSIGHT
2 FOR HEALTH CARE DELIVERY NETWORKS;

3 (III) ESTABLISH ADVISORY PANELS COMPOSED OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF TARGET COMMUNITIES TO EVALUATE THE QUALITY OF
5 CARE DELIVERED TO TARGET COMMUNITIES; AND

6 (IV) PROVIDE GRANTS TO HEALTH CARE DELIVERY NETWORKS
7 DURING START UP.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 1996.