

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 213

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 4, after “organizations” insert “; permitting health benefit plans issued through certain employee leasing organizations to have a common anniversary date; requiring a certain study; and providing for the termination of this Act”; and in line 7, after “(m)” insert “and 15-1212 (a)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, after line 26, insert:

“15-1212.

(a) (1) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, a carrier shall renew a health benefit plan at the option of the small employer.

(2) On renewal, a carrier may not exclude eligible employees or dependents from a health benefit plan.

(3) POLICIES OR CERTIFICATES FOR HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL BENEFITS ISSUED THROUGH A PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATION, COEMPLOYER, OR OTHER ORGANIZATION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CARRIER, HAVE A COMMON RENEWAL DATE.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, before line 27, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(Over)

(a) The Health Care Access and Cost Commission, in conjunction with the Maryland Insurance Administration, shall conduct a study of ways to reduce administrative overhead associated with health insurance for small employers that lease employees from a professional employer organization, coemployer, or other organization engaged in employee leasing.

(b) The study shall include the feasibility and desirability of a common small group policy for such employers.

(c) The Commission shall report the results of its study, in accordance with § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee by November 1, 1997.”;

in line 27, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”; and in line 28, after the period, insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of September 30, 1998, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.