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**By: Delegate McHale**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Uniform Laboratory Referral Form - Repeal**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that certain laboratories accept a certain  
4 uniform laboratory referral form as the sole instrument for referrals for laboratory  
5 services; repealing the requirement that physicians must use a certain uniform  
6 laboratory referral form; repealing the requirement that the Insurance  
7 Commissioner adopt by regulation a certain uniform laboratory referral form;  
8 repealing the requirement that the Insurance Commissioner consult with certain  
9 persons when developing the uniform laboratory referral form; and generally  
10 relating to the uniform laboratory referral form.

11 BY repealing

12 Article - Health - General  
13 Section 17-215.1  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

16 BY repealing

17 Article - Health Occupations  
18 Section 14-509  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

22 Article - Insurance  
23 Section 15-120  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (1995 Volume and 1996 Supplement)  
26 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ (H.B. 11) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1997)

27 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

28 Chapter 577 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995  
29 Section 2

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

3 **Article - Health - General**

4 [17-215.1.

5 (a) A laboratory that requires a health care provider to submit a written referral  
6 to receive laboratory services shall accept the uniform laboratory referral form adopted  
7 by the Insurance Commissioner under Article 48A, § 490BB of the Code as the sole  
8 instrument for referrals for laboratory services.

9 (b) A laboratory may not impose any requirement to:

10 (1) Modify the uniform laboratory referral form; or

11 (2) Submit additional laboratory referral forms.]

12 **Article - Health Occupations**

13 [14-509.

14 A physician shall use the uniform laboratory referral form adopted by the Insurance  
15 Commissioner under Article 48A, § 490BB of the Code.]

16 **Article - Insurance**

17 15-120.

18 (a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the Commissioner shall adopt by  
19 regulation[:

20 (1) a uniform laboratory referral form for use by insurers, nonprofit health  
21 service plans, and health maintenance organizations that require insureds or subscribers  
22 to have a written referral to receive laboratory services; and

23 (2)] a uniform consultation referral form for use by insurers, nonprofit health  
24 service plans, and health maintenance organizations that require insureds or subscribers  
25 to have a written referral to receive consultation services.

26 (b) The Commissioner may waive the requirements of regulations adopted under  
27 subsection (a) of this section for the use of [uniform laboratory referral forms and]  
28 uniform consultation referral forms for an entity that uses the forms solely for internal  
29 purposes.

30 **Chapter 577 of the Acts of 1995**

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Insurance  
32 Commissioner, when developing the[,] uniform provider voucher form [the uniform  
33 laboratory referral form,] and the uniform consultation referral form under Article 48A,  
34 § 490BB of the Code, shall consult with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,  
35 the Health Care Access and Cost Commission, the Office on Aging, Blue Cross and Blue  
36 Shield of Maryland, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of the National Capital Area, the Health  
37 Insurance Association of America, the League of Life and Health Insurers, the Maryland  
38 Hospital Association, the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, the Medical

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1 Group Management Association, a representative of the medical laboratory industry in  
2 the State, the Maryland Association of Health Maintenance Organizations, and a  
3 nonphysician health care provider association. The forms developed under this section  
4 shall be capable of electronic transfer.

5           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 1997.