
By: Senator Hafer

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1997

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Health Maintenance Organizations - Point-of-Service Option - Definition

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of "point-of-service option" to specify that it
4 is a delivery system that permits a member or subscriber of a health maintenance
5 organization to receive services outside the health maintenance organization's
6 provider panel for any health care service that is covered under the member's or
7 subscriber's contract with the health maintenance organization.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Health - General
10 Section 19-710.2(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article - Health - General
15 Section 19-710.2(b)(1)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

20 **Article - Health - General**

21 19-710.2.

22 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (2) "Carrier" means:

- 24 (i) An insurer;
- 25 (ii) A nonprofit health service plan;
- 26 (iii) A health maintenance organization;
- 27 (iv) A dental plan organization; or

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1 (v) Any other person or organization that provides health benefit
2 plans subject to State regulation.

3 (3) "Point-of-service option" means a delivery system that permits a
4 member or subscriber of a health maintenance organization to receive [services] ANY
5 HEALTH CARE SERVICE outside the provider panel of the health maintenance
6 organization THAT IS COVERED under the terms and conditions of the member's or
7 subscriber's contract with the health maintenance organization.

8 (4) "Provider panel" means those providers with which a health
9 maintenance organization contracts to provide services to the health maintenance
10 organization's members or subscribers under the health maintenance organization's
11 health benefit plan.

12 (b) (1) If an employer, association, or other private group arrangement offers
13 health benefit plan coverage to employees or individuals only through a health
14 maintenance organization, the health maintenance organization with which the employer,
15 association, or other private group arrangement is contracting for the coverage shall offer,
16 or contract with another carrier to offer, a point-of-service option to the employer,
17 association, or other private group arrangement in conjunction with the health
18 maintenance organization as an additional benefit for an employee or individual, at the
19 employee's or individual's option, to accept or reject.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 July 1, 1997.