

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 4
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute:

“Maryland Children's Health Program

FOR the purpose of requiring the Medical Assistance Program to provide certain services to certain minors and other individuals who meet certain family income standards; providing that in order to qualify for the Program an individual may not be covered by or have voluntarily terminated certain employer-based health insurance coverage within a certain time period; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to make certain outreach efforts; providing that Program applications shall be made available in a certain manner; requiring the Department to apply for a certain waiver, conduct certain studies, and submit certain reports; making provisions of this Act severable; and generally relating to the Maryland Children's Health Program.”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 3 on page 1 through line 40 on page 2 and substitute:

“BY renumbering

Article - Health - General

Section 15-103.1

to be Section 15-103.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Health - General

(Over)

Section 15-101(a), (h), and (i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Health - General
Section 15-103.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)”.

On pages 2 and 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 41 on page 2 through line 33 on page 3, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 3 through 35, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 34 on page 3 through line 39 on page 35, inclusive, and substitute:

“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That Section(s) 15-103.1 of Article - Health - General of the Annotated Code of Maryland be
renumbered to be Section(s) 15-103.2.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as
follows:

Article - Health - General

15-101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(h) “Program” means the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

(i) “Program recipient” means an individual who receives benefits under the Program.

15-103.1.

(A) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET, THE PROGRAM
SHALL PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL CARE AND OTHER HEALTH CARE

SERVICES TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS A FAMILY INCOME AT OR BELOW 200% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL AND WHO IS:

(1) UNDER THE AGE OF 19 YEARS; OR

(2) PREGNANT OR UP TO 2 MONTHS POSTPARTUM.

(B) TO QUALIFY AS A PROGRAM RECIPIENT UNDER THIS SECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT:

(1) BE COVERED BY EMPLOYER-BASED HEALTH INSURANCE; OR

(2) HAVE VOLUNTARILY TERMINATED EMPLOYER-BASED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE WITHIN THE PRECEDING 3 MONTHS.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLICIZE THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM AND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION, MAKE OUTREACH EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

(D) (1) APPLICATIONS TO QUALIFY AS A PROGRAM RECIPIENT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

(2) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, APPLICATIONS TO QUALIFY AS A PROGRAM RECIPIENT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN SCHOOLS, DAY CARE CENTERS, LIBRARIES, HEAD START PROGRAMS, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS.

(3) APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE MAIL.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall apply to the federal Health Care Financing Administration for a waiver and take any other steps necessary to secure federal funds at an enhanced matching rate for coverage of

(Over)

pregnant women.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall study and report to the Senate Finance Committee, the House Environmental Matters Committee, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before December 31, 1998, on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of providing family coverage for the families of individuals who qualify to receive benefits under § 15-103.1 of the Health - General Article as enacted by Section 2 of this Act.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the Maryland Insurance Administration, the Health Care Access and Cost Commission, the business community, and the health insurance industry, shall conduct a study to determine the effect the Maryland Children's Health Program has or may have on the availability of private health care coverage to the Program's target population and on the willingness of the families of the target population to purchase private health care coverage. The study shall recommend ways to encourage and increase the availability and purchase of private coverage. The study shall also examine the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of providing comprehensive medical care and other health care services to Program recipients through the private market, including the prospect for purchasing dependent medical coverage through an employer-sponsored health plan. If a private market proposal is found to be feasible, the Department shall apply to the federal Health Care Financing Administration for a waiver, if necessary, and take any other steps necessary to implement the proposal. The Department shall report the results of its study to the Senate Finance Committee, the House Environmental Matters Committee, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before December 31, 1998.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is not approved by the federal Health Care Financing Administration, that disapproval does not affect other provisions or any other application of this Act which is approved, and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1998.”.