
By: **Senator Bromwell**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 1998

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 1998

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Insurance - Carriers - Uniform Credentialing Forms**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a carrier to make available a certain form to a health
4 care provider that is to be credentialed or recredentialed by that carrier;
5 requiring a carrier to accept a certain form and, if applicable, an addendum, as
6 the application for a health care provider to become credentialed or
7 recredentialed by the carrier for the carrier's provider panel; authorizing a
8 carrier to issue an addendum to the uniform credentialing form to request
9 information in addition to the information sought on the uniform credentialing
10 form; providing for the creation of a task force to study certain issues; providing
11 for the membership of the task force; requiring the task force to submit a certain
12 report by a certain date; providing for the termination of a portion of this Act;
13 providing a certain penalty for a violation of this Act; defining certain terms;
14 and generally relating to the use of a uniform credentialing form by a carrier.

15 BY adding to

16 Article - Insurance

17 Section 15-124

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (1997 Volume)

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

Article - Insurance

15-124.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) (I) "CARRIER" MEANS:

1. AN INSURER;

2. A NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN;

3. A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION;

4. A DENTAL PLAN ORGANIZATION; OR

5. ANY OTHER PERSON THAT PROVIDES HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS SUBJECT TO REGULATION BY THE STATE.

(II) "CARRIER" INCLUDES AN ENTITY THAT ARRANGES A PROVIDER PANEL FOR A CARRIER.

(3) "HEALTH CARE PROVIDER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

(4) "PROVIDER PANEL" MEANS THE PROVIDERS THAT CONTRACT WITH A CARRIER TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THE CARRIER'S ENROLLEES UNDER THE CARRIER'S HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.

(5) "UNIFORM CREDENTIALING FORM" MEANS THE CURRENT APPLICATION PREPARED BY THE MEDICAL SOCIETY CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION ORGANIZATIONS OF AMERICA FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREDENTIALING AND RE-CREDENTIALING A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER BY A CARRIER.

(B) (1) A CARRIER SHALL MAKE THE UNIFORM CREDENTIALING FORM AVAILABLE TO ANY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER THAT IS TO BE CREDENTIALLED OR RE-CREDENTIALLED BY THAT CARRIER.

(2) A CARRIER MAY ISSUE AN ADDENDUM TO THE UNIFORM CREDENTIALING FORM TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT IS NOT DUPLICATIVE OF INFORMATION REQUESTED IN THE UNIFORM CREDENTIALING FORM.

~~(2)~~ (3) A CARRIER SHALL ACCEPT THE UNIFORM CREDENTIALING FORM, AND, IF ISSUED, AN ADDENDUM ISSUED BY THE CARRIER UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AS THE APPLICATION FOR A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TO BECOME CREDENTIALLED OR RE-CREDENTIALLED BY THE CARRIER FOR THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER PANEL.

1 (C) THE COMMISSIONER MAY IMPOSE A PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$500
2 AGAINST ANY CARRIER FOR EACH VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

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

4 (a) There is a Task Force on a Uniform Addendum to the Uniform
5 Credentialing Form consisting of 14 members;

6 (b) The membership of the Task Force consists of:

7 (1) three representatives from the Medical Group Management
8 Association;

9 (2) three representatives from the Medical-Chirurgical Society of
10 Maryland;

11 (3) two representatives of the Maryland Association of Health
12 Maintenance Organizations;

13 (4) two representatives of the Maryland Hospital Association;

14 (5) one representative from a nonprofit health service plan;

15 (6) one representative from a credentialing verification organization
16 that is a Maryland corporation;

17 (7) one representative of the Health Care Access and Cost Commission;
18 and

19 (8) one representative of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

20 (c) The representative of the Health Care Access and Cost Commission is the
21 Chairperson of the Task Force;

22 (d) The Task Force shall examine the feasibility of the creation and use of a
23 uniform addendum to the uniform credentialing form to request information in
24 addition to the information requested in the uniform credentialing form that is sought
25 by carriers from health care providers that are to be credentialed or recredentialed for
26 participation on a provider panel; and

27 (e) On or before February 1, 1999, subject to § 2-1246 of the State
28 Government Article, the Task Force shall submit a report on its findings, including
29 any recommendations, to the President of the Senate of Maryland, the Speaker of the
30 Maryland House of Delegates, and the respective Chairmen of the Senate Finance
31 Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee.

32 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall
33 take effect July 1, 1998 and at the end of February 1, 1999, with no further action
34 required by the General Assembly, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no
35 further force and effect.

1 SECTION ~~2.~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the
2 provisions of Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 1998.