

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 612 (Senator Van Hollen)

Finance

Health Care Carriers - Action Against Providers - Prohibition

This bill prohibits a health insurer, nonprofit health service plan, or HMO (carrier) from suspending referrals to a health care provider on the carrier's provider panel for: (1) the expression of any political or other views protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution; or (2) certain actions or characteristics of the provider as specified in current law. In addition, the carrier may not deny an application for or terminate participation on its provider panel, or otherwise penalize a provider, for the expression of any political or other views protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill would not directly affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Budget and Management, Insurance Administration, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Health Care Access and Cost Commission), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 1998

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