

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1387 (Delegate Eckardt. *et al.*)

Economic Matters

Health Insurance - Requirements for Providers to Serve on Provider Panels

This bill prohibits a health insurer, nonprofit health service plan, or HMO (carrier) that contracts with health care providers through one or more provider panels from requiring a provider, as a condition of participation or continuation on a provider panel, to serve on the provider panel of another health benefit plan of the carrier. The definition of provider panel is expanded to include arrangements in which a provider participates solely by contracting with the carrier to provide health care services at a discounted fee-for-service rate.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Fiscal Analysis

Small Business Effect: This bill could give small business health care providers more flexibility to choose the provider panels on which they would serve. This may impact the type of patients they serve, which in turn, may affect their revenues.

Information Source(s): Insurance Administration, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Board of Nursing, Boards and Commissions, Board of Physician Quality Assurance), Department of Budget and Management, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - March 10, 1998

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