

BY: Economic Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 738

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 6, strike “repealing” and substitute “altering”; in line 8, after “Program;” insert “requiring the Department to provide certain notice to certain individuals concerning an annual family contribution amount;”; and in line 10, after “basis;” insert “requiring certain entities to study and make recommendations concerning expansion of a certain program and report to certain committees of the General Assembly by certain dates; providing for the delegation of a certain duty;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, in line 11, strike “[g)” and substitute “(E)”; in line 14, strike “1999” and substitute “2000”; in line 26, strike the bracket; and after line 26, insert:

“(III) BEFORE COLLECTING A FAMILY CONTRIBUTION FROM ANY INDIVIDUAL, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE INDIVIDUAL WITH NOTICE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FAMILY CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT AND THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE INDIVIDUAL TO MAKE PREMIUM PAYMENTS.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 7, after line 26, insert:

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

(a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the Maryland Insurance Administration, the Health Care Foundation, the Health Care Access and Cost Commission, the business community, and the health care insurance industry shall study and make recommendations regarding the ability of the State to expand the Children and Families Health Care Program beyond the current income eligibility level to individuals who would qualify for the

(Over)

enhanced federal match provided for under Title XXI of the Social Security Act as part of the program established under § 15-301 of this subtitle through private market, employer sponsored health benefits plans and private market, individual health benefit plans.

(b) In conducting the study and making the recommendations required under subsection (a), the Department shall:

(1) document and consider the policies of other states concerning the extension of private market insurance to uninsured children;

(2) determine the feasibility of including any portion of the population that is currently eligible for the Children and Families Health Care Program in an expanded private option program;

(3) develop a specific health benefit package to be offered through the private market, taking into consideration both the health care needs and the affordability concerns of the eligible population;

(4) determine an appropriate annual family contribution level or premium for the product developed under item (3) of this subsection;

(5) document and consider the number of employers that offer dependent coverage to employees and the average cost of that coverage to both employers and employees;

(6) with regard to employer sponsored health benefit plans, determine an appropriate employer contribution toward the cost of providing dependent coverage to eligible families; and

(7) develop a plan to foster the enrollment of the children of eligible State employees, including contractual employees of the State of Maryland in the program established under § 15-301 of the Health - General Article and any expansion of that program.

(c) The Department may delegate to the Health Care Access and Cost Commission the authority to develop a health insurance benefit package in accordance with subsection (b)(3) of this

section.

(d) The Department shall report on the result of its study and its recommendations in an interim report no later than September 1, 1999, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, a final report to the House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Finance Committee no later than December 1, 1999.”;

and in line 27, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”.

(Over)