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By: **Delegate Mitchell**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Health Care Access and Cost Commission - Advisory Committee on Practice**  
3                                   **Parameters - Repeal**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the Advisory Committee on Practice Parameters;  
5 specifying that certain practice parameters adopted by the Health Care Access  
6 and Cost Commission remain in effect until a certain date; and generally  
7 relating to repealing the Advisory Committee on Practice Parameters.

8 BY repealing

9 Article - Health - General

10 Section 19-1601 through 19-1606, inclusive, and the subtitle "Subtitle 16.

11 Advisory Committee on Practice Parameters"

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article - Health - General

16 Section 19-1502

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

20 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 19-1601 through 19-1606 and the subtitle "Subtitle 16.

21 Advisory Committee on Practice Parameters" of Article - Health - General of the

22 Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland

24 read as follows:

25                                   **Article - Health - General**

26 19-1502.

27 (a) There is a Maryland Health Care Access and Cost Commission.

1 (b) The Commission is an independent commission that functions in the  
2 Department.

3 (c) The purpose of the Commission is to:

4 (1) Develop health care cost containment strategies to help provide  
5 access to appropriate quality health care services for all Marylanders, after  
6 consulting with the Health Resources Planning Commission and the Health Services  
7 Cost Review Commission;

8 (2) Facilitate the public disclosure of medical claims data for the  
9 development of public policy;

10 (3) Establish and develop a medical care data base on health care  
11 services rendered by health care practitioners;

12 (4) Encourage the development of clinical resource management systems  
13 to permit the comparison of costs between various treatment settings and the  
14 availability of information to consumers, providers, and purchasers of health care  
15 services;

16 (5) In accordance with Title 15, Subtitle 12 of the Insurance Article,  
17 develop:

18 (i) A uniform set of effective benefits to be included in the  
19 Comprehensive Standard Health Benefit Plan; and

20 (ii) A modified health benefit plan for medical savings accounts;

21 (6) Analyze the medical care data base and provide, in aggregate form,  
22 an annual report on the variations in costs associated with health care practitioners;

23 (7) Ensure utilization of the medical care data base as a primary means  
24 to compile data and information and annually report on trends and variances  
25 regarding fees for service, cost of care, regional and national comparisons, and  
26 indications of malpractice situations;

27 (8) Develop a payment system for health care services;

28 (9) Establish standards for the operation and licensing of medical care  
29 electronic claims clearinghouses in Maryland;

30 (10) [Foster the development of practice parameters;

31 (11)] Reduce the costs of claims submission and the administration of  
32 claims for health care practitioners and payors; and

33 [(12)] (11) Develop a uniform set of effective benefits to be offered as  
34 substantial, available, and affordable coverage in the nongroup market in accordance  
35 with § 15-606 of the Insurance Article.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That a practice parameter  
2 adopted by the Health Care Cost and Access Commission prior to October 1, 1999  
3 shall remain in effect, by regulation, and shall abrogate 3 years from the date of its  
4 adoption. The Commission may not readopt a practice parameter after its expiration.

5 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 1999.