

HOUSE BILL 978

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1999 Regular Session
9lr2331

By: **Delegate Mitchell**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 1999

CHAPTER_____

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22 Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
2 read as follows:

3 **Article - Health - General**

4 19-1502.

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

6 (b) The Commission is an independent commission that functions in the
7 Department.

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

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

13 (2) Facilitate the public disclosure of medical claims data for the
14 development of public policy;

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

17 (4) Encourage the development of clinical resource management systems
18 to permit the comparison of costs between various treatment settings and the
19 availability of information to consumers, providers, and purchasers of health care
20 services;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 [(12)] (11) Develop a uniform set of effective benefits to be offered as
5 substantial, available, and affordable coverage in the nongroup market in accordance
6 with § 15-606 of the Insurance Article.

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

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