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By: Delegate Taylor

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Economic Matters

1 AN ACT concerning

## A BILL ENTITLED

2	Task Force to Study Increasing Health Insurance Coverage for Individual
3	in the Non-Group Health Insurance Market

- 4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Increasing Health Insurance
- 5 Coverage for Individuals in the Non-Group Health Insurance Market;
- 6 establishing the membership of the Task Force; establishing duties of the Task
- Force; providing that the Task Force shall be staffed to the extent possible by
- 8 the Maryland Insurance Administration, in cooperation with the Health Care
- 9 Access and Cost Commission, within existing budgeted resources; requiring the
- Task Force to issue a final report of its findings, recommendations, and
- comprehensive strategy by a certain date; and generally relating to health
- benefit plans.
- 13 BY adding to
- 14 Article Insurance
- 15 Section 15-126
- 16 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 17 (1997 Volume and 1998 Supplement)

18 Preamble

- 19 WHEREAS, The Health Care Access and Cost Commission's State Health Care
- 20 Expenditures Report for December 1998 indicates that 13.4% of the residents of
- 21 Maryland, approximately 680,000 individuals, were without health insurance in
- 22 1997;
- 23 WHEREAS, The high cost of health insurance coverage is one of the primary
- 24 reasons individuals do not receive coverage; and
- 25 WHEREAS, Many uninsured residents of Maryland are willing to purchase
- 26 health care coverage but are unable to access or afford the health insurance
- 27 premiums; and
- WHEREAS, Uncompensated care in Maryland has risen from \$354 million in
- 29 1992 to \$436 million in 1997; and

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- WHEREAS, Changes made by the passage of the Health Insurance Portability
- 2 and Accessibility Act of 1997 have impacted the nongroup health insurance market in
- 3 Maryland; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Recommendations have been made to make changes to the State's
- 5 Substantial, Affordable, and Accessible Coverage Program; and
- 6 WHEREAS, It is a public policy goal of the Maryland General Assembly to move
- 7 forward towards the goal of a health care delivery system that is accessible and
- 8 affordable; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Several issues have arisen in small group market reform related to
- 10 self-employed individuals and part-time individuals in obtaining health care
- 11 coverage; and
- WHEREAS, The federal government and the United States Congress have
- 13 failed to act promptly in enacting legislative reforms for individuals obtaining health
- 14 coverage in the non-group market; now, therefore,
- 15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 17 Article Insurance
- 18 15-126.
- 19 (A) THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY INCREASING HEALTH INSURANCE
- 20 COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS IN THE NON-GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE MARKET.
- 21 (B) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:
- 22 (1) A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE
- 23 SPEAKER;
- 24 (2) A MEMBER OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT;
- 25 (3) THE COMMISSIONER;
- 26 (4) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND COST
- 27 COMMISSION;
- 28 (5) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW
- 29 COMMISSION;
- 30 (6) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEAGUE OF LIFE AND HEALTH
- 31 INSURERS OF MARYLAND;
- 32 (7) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A CARRIER WHO OPERATES ONLY IN THE
- 33 INDIVIDUAL MARKET, APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER;

34 FORCE; BUT

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A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF 1 (8)2 AMERICA: A REPRESENTATIVE OF A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION 4 THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE SMALL GROUP MARKET, APPOINTED BY THE 5 COMMISSIONER; A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF LIFE 6 (10)7 UNDERWRITERS OR MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH UNDERWRITERS, 8 APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONER: AND 9 A CONSUMER REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS HEALTH INSURANCE 10 COVERAGE WITH A CARRIER OPERATING IN THE INDIVIDUAL MARKET. APPOINTED 11 BY THE COMMISSIONER. THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE JOINTLY CHAIRED BY THE COMMISSIONER 13 AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND COST COMMISSION. 14 THE TASK FORCE SHALL DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT AND (D) 15 STRATEGY FOR INCREASING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS IN 16 THE NON-GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE MARKET BY: EXAMINING THE SCOPE AND NATURE OF THE UNINSURED 17 (1) 18 POPULATION IN THE STATE; 19 DETERMINING WHAT CHANGES OR RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE 20 PROPOSED TO THE STATE'S NON-GROUP MARKET TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AND 21 EXAMINING ISSUES RELATED TO: 22 (I) THE HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY 23 ACT OF 1997; 24 THE SUBSTANTIAL, AFFORDABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE COVERAGE (II)25 PROGRAM; THE SMALL GROUP MARKET PLAN: 26 (III) 27 (IV) SELF-EMPLOYED AND PART-TIME INDIVIDUALS: 28 (V) SUPPLEMENTAL POLICIES FOR MEDICARE; 29 THE CREATION OF HIGH-RISK POOLS; AND (VI) PROVIDING INDIVIDUALS WITH INSURANCE THROUGH A LIST 31 BILLING MECHANISM PROVIDED ON A PRETAX DOLLAR BASIS. 32 A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE: (E) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE ON THE TASK

- 1 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE 2 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.
- 3 (F) THE MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION, IN COOPERATION WITH
- 4 THE HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND COST COMMISSION, SHALL PROVIDE STAFF
- 5 SUPPORT FOR THE TASK FORCE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITHIN EXISTING
- 6 BUDGETED RESOURCES.
- 7 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL SUBMIT A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS,
- 8 RECOMMENDATIONS, AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY, AS PROVIDED IN § 2-1246 OF
- 9 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
- 10 AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 1999.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 12 July 1, 1999.