
By: **Delegates Conway, Cane, Bozman, Walkup, and McClenahan**
Introduced and read first time: February 15, 1999
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance - Interpreter Expenses for Hearing Impaired**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring carriers to reimburse health care practitioners for the
4 cost of services performed by an interpreter for an insured or enrollee who is
5 hearing impaired under certain circumstances.

6 BY adding to
7 Article - Insurance
8 Section 15-126
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1997 Volume and 1998 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
12 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article - Insurance**

14 15-126.

15 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
16 INDICATED.

17 (2) "CARRIER" MEANS:

18 (I) AN INSURER;

19 (II) A NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN;

20 (III) A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION;

21 (IV) A DENTAL PLAN ORGANIZATION; OR

22 (V) ANY OTHER PERSON THAT PROVIDES HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS
23 SUBJECT TO REGULATION BY THE STATE.

1 (3) "HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS
2 LICENSED, CERTIFIED, OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED UNDER THE HEALTH
3 OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

4 (B) A CARRIER SHALL REIMBURSE A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER FOR THE
5 COST OF SERVICES PERFORMED BY A QUALIFIED INTERPRETER FOR AN INSURED OR
6 ENROLLEE IF:

7 (1) THE SERVICES OF THE INTERPRETER ARE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF
8 A HEARING IMPAIRMENT OF THE INSURED OR ENROLLEE OR A FAILURE OF THE
9 INSURED OR ENROLLEE TO UNDERSTAND OR OTHERWISE COMMUNICATE IN
10 SPOKEN LANGUAGE;

11 (2) THE SERVICES OF THE INTERPRETER ARE USED BY THE INSURED OR
12 ENROLLEE IN CONNECTION WITH MEDICAL TREATMENT OR DIAGNOSTIC
13 CONSULTATIONS PERFORMED BY THE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER; AND

14 (3) THE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER IS DELIVERING COVERED
15 SERVICES TO THE INSURED OR ENROLLEE.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 1999.