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Unofficial Copy 1999 Regular Session C3

By: Delegate Busch Rules suspended Introduced and read first time: March 19, 1999 Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations Re-referred to: Economic Matters, March 22, 1999 Committee Report: Favorable House action: Adopted Read second time: March 25, 1999 CHAPTER____ 1 AN ACT concerning 2 Health Insurance - Assignment, Transfer, or Subcontracting of Health Care 3 **Providers' Contracts** 4 FOR the purpose of clarifying that a carrier may not impair the contract or employment of a health care provider with the carrier on the basis that the 5 health care provider refused to participate in a contract to provide care for an 6 insurer that offers personal injury protection; and generally relating to health 7 8 care provider contracts with carriers. 9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article - Insurance 10 Section 15-125 11 12 Annotated Code of Maryland 13 (1997 Volume and 1998 Supplement) 14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: 16 **Article - Insurance** 17 15-125. 18 In this section the following words have the meanings indicated. (a) (1) 19 "Carrier" means: (2) (i)

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1. an insurer; 2 2. a nonprofit health service plan; 3 3. a health maintenance organization; 4 4. a dental plan organization; or 5 5. any other person that provides health benefit plans subject to regulation by the State. 7 (ii) "Carrier" includes an entity that arranges a provider panel for carrier. 9 (3) "Contract" means the implied or express agreement between a health care provider and carrier, including the rights, obligations, and fee schedule for the provision of health care services. 12 (4) "Health care provider" means an individual who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under the Health Occupations Article to provide health care services. 15 (b) (1) A carrier may not in any manner assign, transfer, or subcontract a health care provider's contract, wholly or partly, to an insurer that offers personal injury protection coverage under § 19-505 of this article without first informing the health care provider and obtaining the health care provider's express written consent. 19 (2) A carrier may not terminate, limit, or otherwise impair the contract or employment of a health care provider with the carrier on the basis that the health care provider refused to agree to an assignment, transfer, or subcontract of all or part of the health care provider's contract TO AN INSURER THAT OFFERS PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION COVERAGE UNDER § 19-505 OF THIS ARTICLE.					
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24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 25 June 1, 1999.