

SENATE BILL 579

Unofficial Copy
C3

1999 Regular Session
9r0790
CF 9r1541

By: **Senators Pinsky, Conway, Forehand, Frosh, Hollinger, Kelley, Sfikas,
Van Hollen, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance - Universal Coverage**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Access and Cost Commission
4 to develop a certain plan for providing universal health care coverage to certain
5 residents of the State; requiring the plan to provide certain benefits; specifying
6 the contents of the plan; providing for the appointment by the Governor of an
7 advisory committee to assist the Commission in developing the plan; specifying
8 the composition and duties of the advisory committee; requiring the Commission
9 to consult with certain persons and hold certain hearings in developing the plan;
10 requiring the Commission to report to the Governor and the General Assembly
11 on or before a certain date; and generally relating to health care coverage for
12 residents of the State.

13 BY adding to

14 Article - Health - General

15 Section 19-1517

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

20 **Article - Health - General**

21 19-1517.

22 (A) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL
23 HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TO ELIGIBLE RESIDENTS OF THE STATE.

24 (2) THE PLAN SHALL:

25 (I) PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE FOR ALL MEDICALLY
26 NECESSARY CARE;

1 (II) CONTAIN A DESCRIPTION OF THE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY
2 SYSTEM OPTIONS THAT MEET THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- 3 1. UNIVERSAL COVERAGE;
- 4 2. COMPREHENSIVE BENEFITS FOR THE FULL RANGE OF
5 MEDICALLY NECESSARY CARE;
- 6 3. AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE;
- 7 4. EQUITABLE FINANCING AND REAL COST CONTROLS;
- 8 5. DELIVERY OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE;
- 9 6. SIMPLIFIED ADMINISTRATION THAT REDUCES
10 BUREAUCRACY AND ELIMINATES UNNECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS; AND
- 11 7. PROTECTIONS FOR CONSUMERS AND HEALTH CARE
12 WORKERS;

13 (III) INCLUDE A DELIVERY SYSTEM OPTION BASED ON A SINGLE,
14 UNIFIED, PUBLICLY ADMINISTERED HEALTH SYSTEM;

15 (IV) CONTAIN AN ANALYSIS OF EACH DELIVERY SYSTEM
16 DESCRIBED IN THE PLAN, INCLUDING A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RELEVANT POLICY,
17 ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCING, POTENTIAL COST SAVINGS, AND LEGAL ISSUES
18 RELATED TO EACH OPTION; AND

19 (V) CONTAIN THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
20 IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN.

21 (B)(1) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSISTING
22 OF NINE MEMBERS TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN DEVELOPING THE PLAN
23 REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.

24 (2) OF THE NINE MEMBERS:

25 (I) ONE SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MEDICAL AND
26 CHIRURGICAL FACULTY;

27 (II) ONE SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF A LABOR UNION;

28 (III) TWO SHALL BE CONSUMERS, ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A
29 REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES;

30 (IV) ONE SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF A LOCAL PUBLIC
31 HEALTH DEPARTMENT;

32 (V) ONE SHALL BE AN ECONOMIST SPECIALIZING IN HEALTH CARE
33 ISSUES;

1 (VI) TWO SHALL BE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS
2 COMMUNITY, AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SMALL
3 BUSINESS COMMUNITY; AND

4 (VII) ONE SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND NURSES
5 ASSOCIATION.

6 (3) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL:

7 (I) ADVISE THE COMMISSION ON THE SELECTION OF OUTSIDE
8 EXPERTS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT THE ANALYSES REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION
9 (A)(2)(IV) OF THIS SECTION;

10 (II) ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN CONDUCTING THE PUBLIC
11 HEARINGS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION; AND

12 (III) ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN DEVELOPING HEALTH CARE
13 DELIVERY SYSTEM OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE
14 PLAN REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.

15 (C) IN DEVELOPING THE PLAN REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE
16 COMMISSION SHALL:

17 (1) CONSULT WITH HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS, PAYORS, THE
18 HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION, THE DEPARTMENT, AND ANY OTHER
19 APPROPRIATE PERSON; AND

20 (2) HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE BROAD PUBLIC
21 INPUT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN.

22 (D) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2000, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT TO
23 THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE,
24 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY A REPORT ON THE PLAN REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 June 1, 1999.