

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 650 (Senators Van Hollen and Teitelbaum)

Finance

Health Care Professionals - Freedom of Speech and Expression

This bill prohibits an insurer, nonprofit health service plan, HMO, dental plan organization, or managed care organization that provides mental health or substance abuse services (carrier) from terminating a health care provider from its provider panel or suspending referrals to the provider, because the provider advocates governmental regulation of a carrier or criticizes the operational procedures of a carrier. The bill also requires a carrier to notify a provider within 60 days if the carrier is going to terminate or suspend referrals to the provider, stating the reasons for the termination or suspension.

This bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not directly affect governmental finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. Health care providers would not be subjected to termination from provider panels or have referrals from carriers suspended because of negative or critical comments made by the health care provider against the carrier.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Medicaid, Boards and Commissions, Board of Nursing, Board of Physician Quality Assurance), Department of Budget and Management (Employee Benefits Division), Maryland Insurance Administration, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - March 12, 1999

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