

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

House Bill 955 (Delegate Nathan-Pulliam. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Medical Assistance - Program Recipients - Primary Care Providers

This bill requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to establish mechanisms to maintain continuity of care for Medicaid managed care enrollees. The department must identify a program recipient's primary care provider (PCP) at the time of enrollment. If the enrollee's PCP has a contract with a managed care organization (MCO) and the enrollee requests to continue to receive care from the provider, the MCO must assign the enrollee to the provider. An MCO must also allow an enrollee to request an assignment to a new PCP at any time, as long as the PCP contracts with the MCO. The bill specifies that a Medicaid MCO enrollee may disenroll from the enrollee's current MCO if the MCO terminates its contract with the State or is acquired by another entity.

The bill requires DHMH to report, by October 1, 1999, to the House Environmental Matters Committee and the Senate Finance Committee on the study required by the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) concerning various aspects of the HealthChoice program, including a recommendation on whether the MCO capitation rates that will be effective for the six-month period beginning May 1, 1999 should be continued after October 31, 1999. In addition, DHMH must report to the above committees its findings regarding: (1) the department's effectiveness in identifying a program recipient's PCP and assigning the program recipient to the appropriate MCO; and (2) an MCO's method of assigning a program recipient to his/her PCP. This report is due by December 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Medical Care Policy Administration), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 1999
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