

HOUSE BILL 6

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2000 Regular Session
0lr0818

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegates Hurson, Taylor, Dewberry, Arnick, Busch, Guns, Harrison,
Hixson, Howard, Kopp, Menes, Montague, Owings, Rawlings,
Rosenberg, Vallario, and Wood**

Requested: November 15, 1999

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2000

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance - Coverage for Rehabilitation for Children**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain health insurers, nonprofit health service
4 plans, and health maintenance organizations that provide certain coverage for
5 rehabilitation for certain children from denying certain coverage for certain
6 reasons; requiring certain health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and
7 health maintenance organizations to provide notice of certain coverage to its
8 insureds and enrollees; providing for the effect of this Act; providing for the
9 application of this Act; and generally relating to coverage for rehabilitation for
10 children by health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health
11 maintenance organizations.

12 BY adding to

13 Article - Insurance

14 Section 15-835

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (1997 Volume and 1999 Supplement)

17 BY adding to

18 Article - Health - General

19 Section 19-706(nn)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

23 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1

Article - Insurance

2 15-835.

3 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

4 (1) INSURERS AND NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS THAT PROVIDE
5 HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ON AN
6 EXPENSE-INCURRED BASIS UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES OR CONTRACTS
7 THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE; AND

8 (2) HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE HOSPITAL,
9 MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS TO INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS UNDER CONTRACTS
10 THAT ARE ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE.

11 (B) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION THAT PROVIDES COVERAGE FOR
12 REHABILITATION FOR A CHILD WHO IS COVERED THROUGH AN INSURED OR
13 ENROLLED PARENT OF THE CHILD MAY NOT REFUSE TO PROVIDE THAT COVERAGE
14 BECAUSE THE REHABILITATION IS NEEDED AS A RESULT OF A CONDITION THAT WAS
15 PRESENT WHEN THE CHILD WAS BORN.

16 (C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION
17 FROM PROVIDING COVERAGES THAT ARE GREATER OR MORE FAVORABLE TO A
18 CHILD OF AN INSURED OR ENROLLEE THAN THE COVERAGE REQUIRED UNDER THIS
19 SECTION.

20 (D) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE
21 ANNUALLY TO ITS INSUREDS AND ENROLLEES ABOUT THE COVERAGE REQUIRED
22 UNDER THIS SECTION.

23

Article - Health - General

24 19-706.

25 (NN) THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-835 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE SHALL APPLY
26 TO HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to all
28 policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State
29 on or after October 1, 2000. Any policy, contract, or health benefit plan in effect before
30 October 1, 2000, shall comply with the provisions of this Act by October 1, 2001.

31 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 October 1, 2000.