HOUSE BILL 26

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(PRE-FILED)

By: Delegate Boschert

Requested: July 14, 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 Hearing Aids

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain health insurers, nonprofit health service plans,

- 4 and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for certain hearing
- 5 aids; providing for the effect of this Act; defining certain terms; providing for the
- 6 application of this Act; and generally relating to coverage for hearing aids by
- 7 health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance
- 8 organizations.

9 BY adding to

- 10 Article Insurance
- 11 Section 15-835
- 12 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 13 (1997 Volume and 1999 Supplement)

14 BY adding to

- 15 Article Health General
- 16 Section 19-706(nn)
- 17 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 18 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

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

21 Article - Insurance

22 15-835.

23 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

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

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

4 (B) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR A 5 STANDARD MODEL HEARING AID, EVERY 3 YEARS, FOR AN INSURED OR ENROLLEE.

6 (C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION
7 FROM PROVIDING COVERAGES THAT ARE GREATER THAN OR MORE FAVORABLE TO
8 AN INSURED OR ENROLLEE THAN THE COVERAGE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.

9

Article - Health - General

10 19-706.

11 (NN) THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-835 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE APPLY TO 12 HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to all

14 policies, contracts, and health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State

15 on or after October 1, 2000. Any policy, contract, or health benefit plan in effect before

16 October 1, 2000, shall comply with the provisions of this Act by October 1, 2001.

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 18 October 1, 2000.