

HOUSE BILL 559

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SB 326/98 - FIN

2000 Regular Session
0lr1634
CF 0lr1108

By: **Delegates Barve, Stern, Mandel, Sher, Goldwater, Barkley, Kopp,
Kagan, Carlson, Grosfeld, Petzold, Bronrott, Hixson, Heller, Dembrow,
and Cryor**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2000

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance - Requirements for Providers to Serve on Provider Panels**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a carrier that offers coverage for health care services
4 through health benefit plans or contracts with providers to offer health care
5 services through provider panels from requiring a provider, as a condition of
6 participation or continuation on a provider panel, to serve on another provider
7 panel under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally
8 relating to requirements for providers to serve on provider panels.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article - Insurance
11 Section 15-112(a)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1997 Volume and 1999 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article - Insurance
16 Section 15-112(l)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1997 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 15-112.

23 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

24 (2) (i) "Carrier" means:

25 1. an insurer;

- 1 2. a nonprofit health service plan;
- 2 3. a health maintenance organization;
- 3 4. a dental plan organization; or
- 4 5. any other person that provides health benefit plans
- 5 subject to regulation by the State.

6 (ii) "Carrier" includes an entity that arranges a provider panel for a
7 carrier.

8 (3) "Enrollee" means a person entitled to health care benefits from a
9 carrier.

10 (4) "Provider" means a health care practitioner or group of health care
11 practitioners licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to provide health care
12 services.

13 (5) (i) "Provider panel" means the providers that contract with a
14 carrier to provide health care services to the carrier's enrollees under the carrier's
15 health benefit plan.

16 (ii) "Provider panel" does not include an arrangement in which any
17 provider may participate solely by contracting with the carrier to provide health care
18 services at a discounted fee-for-service rate.

19 (L) (1) (I) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
20 MEANINGS INDICATED.

21 (II) "HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §
22 15-1201 OF THIS TITLE.

23 (III) "PROVIDER PANEL" INCLUDES AN ARRANGEMENT IN WHICH
24 ANY PROVIDER MAY PARTICIPATE SOLELY BY CONTRACTING WITH THE CARRIER TO
25 PROVIDE HEALTH CARE SERVICES AT A DISCOUNTED FEE-FOR-SERVICE RATE.

26 (2) A CARRIER THAT OFFERS COVERAGE FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES
27 THROUGH ONE OR MORE HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS OR CONTRACTS WITH PROVIDERS
28 TO OFFER HEALTH CARE SERVICES THROUGH ONE OR MORE PROVIDER PANELS MAY
29 NOT REQUIRE A PROVIDER, AS A CONDITION OF PARTICIPATION OR CONTINUATION
30 ON A PROVIDER PANEL FOR ONE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN OF A CARRIER, TO SERVE
31 ALSO ON A PROVIDER PANEL OF ANOTHER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN OF THE CARRIER.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 October 1, 2000.