
By: **Delegates Oaks and Nathan-Pulliam**
Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2000
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Care for the Uninsured**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include certain amounts in the budget
4 for a certain fiscal year for the Baltimore County Department of Health for use
5 by the PARTNERS Health Improvement Program and the Baltimore City
6 Health Department for use by the Men's Public Health Center.

7 Preamble

8 WHEREAS, One in seven Baltimore County residents, approximately 100,000
9 individuals, is uninsured;

10 WHEREAS, The numbers of uninsured individuals are expected to grow
11 because fewer individuals have job-based health coverage than 10 years ago and by
12 the year 2005 it is estimated that 67% of jobs in the United States will be permanent
13 part-time with no health benefits;

14 WHEREAS, Uninsured individuals often delay seeking medical care, leading to
15 more expensive care, unpaid bills that raise insurance rates for the rest of the
16 population, loss of productivity, increased absence from work, and potential exposure
17 of diseases to coworkers;

18 WHEREAS, The Baltimore County Department of Health is overseeing the
19 development of the PARTNERS Health Improvement Program (PARTNERSH.I.P.),
20 which is a private-public partnership program providing comprehensive preventive
21 health coverage for uninsured Baltimore County families whose incomes fall below
22 200% of the federal poverty level;

23 WHEREAS, The PARTNERSH.I.P. will enhance the overall health of the
24 community, restore and maintain the stability of working families, and reduce the
25 cost of health care to taxpayers, businesses, and health care providers;

26 WHEREAS, The PARTNERSH.I.P. requires State funding to cover copayments,
27 pharmaceuticals, rehabilitation equipment, and currently uncovered health services,
28 as well as to serve a larger portion of the uninsured population;

1 WHEREAS, African American males between the ages of 19 and 64 are
2 disproportionately likely to be uninsured;

3 WHEREAS, The Baltimore City Health Department has created the Men's
4 Public Health Center to provide access to health care to members of the male
5 population of Baltimore who are currently uninsured or under insured;

6 WHEREAS, The Men's Public Health Center will seek funding from private
7 foundations and will also require State funding for both capital and programmatic
8 costs; now, therefore,

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 MARYLAND, That the Governor shall include in the fiscal year 2002 budget \$300,000
11 for the Baltimore County Department of Health for use in the PARTNERS Health
12 Improvement Program and \$200,000 to be used by the Baltimore City Health
13 Department for use in the Men's Public Health Initiative.

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