

SENATE BILL 268

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2000 Regular Session
0lr1690
CF 0lr0295

By: **Senator Collins**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2000

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance - Coverage for Hearing Aids - Children**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain health insurers, nonprofit health service plans,
4 and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for hearing aids for
5 certain children; requiring certain health insurers, nonprofit health service
6 plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide notice of certain
7 coverage to its insureds and enrollees; providing for the application of this Act;
8 and generally relating to coverage for hearing aids for children by health
9 insurers, nonprofit health service plans, and health maintenance organizations.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Insurance

12 Section 15-835

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (1997 Volume and 1999 Supplement)

15 BY adding to

16 Article - Health - General

17 Section 19-706(nn)

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

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

22 **Article - Insurance**

23 15-835.

24 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

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

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

4 (B) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR
5 HEARING AIDS FOR A CHILD WHO IS COVERED THROUGH AN INSURED OR ENROLLED
6 PARENT OF THE CHILD.

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

11 (D) AN ENTITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE
12 ANNUALLY TO ITS INSUREDS AND ENROLLEES ABOUT THE COVERAGE REQUIRED
13 UNDER THIS SECTION.

14 **Article - Health - General**

15 19-706.

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

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

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