

BY: Economic Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 695

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “Delegate Mitchell” and substitute “Delegates Mitchell, Donoghue, Fulton, Goldwater, Kach, Krysiak, Love, McClenahan, Moe, Pendergrass, and Walkup”; strike beginning with “Department” in line 3 down through the second “for” in line 4 and substitute “Maryland Health Care Commission to contract with”; in line 5, after the first “study” insert “in a certain manner”; in the same line, strike “providing for the funding of the study;”; strike beginning with “independent” in line 6 down through the first “to” in line 7 and substitute “Commission to provide a certain”; and strike beginning with the comma in line 8 down through “entities” in line 9; and in line 9, after “Act;” insert “making the implementation of this Act contingent on an increase in certain fees; requiring the Commission to notify the Department of Legislative Services if certain fees are not increased;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, strike in their entirety lines 13 through 17, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) the Maryland Health Care Commission shall:

(1) contract with an independent consultant to conduct a study comparing the performance of Maryland’s small group health insurance market reform law to other states; and

(2) instruct the independent consultant to meet with and to provide periodic updates to an independent advisory committee comprised of small employers participating in the small group market, small employers who do not purchase group health insurance, insurers providing coverage in Maryland in the small group market, insurers not participating in the small group market in Maryland, health maintenance organizations, and agents and brokers selling insurance in the small group market;”;

(Over)

and in line 18, strike “(c)” and substitute “(b)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, strike beginning with “of” in line 19 down through “plan” in line 21; in line 22, after “states” insert “, of the benefits offered under Maryland’s comprehensive standard health benefit plan, excluding benefits additional to the standard plan”; strike beginning with “(ii)” in line 23 down through “plan” in line 24 and substitute:

“(2) an analysis”;

in line 25, strike “; and” and substitute “, of the affordability of Maryland’s comprehensive standard health benefit plan, excluding benefits additional to the standard plan”;

and in line 26, strike “(iii)” and substitute:

“(3) an analysis of”.

On page 2, in line 1, strike “(2)” and substitute “(4)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 2, in line 4, after “Maryland” insert “, including an analysis of the impact that any recommendation may have on the scope and quality of the coverage of the plan”; and strike beginning with “and” in line 4 down through “Commission.” in line 10 and substitute:

“(c) in making recommendations under subsection (b)(4) of this section, the independent consultant shall consider the effect of any proposed changes on:

(1) risk segmentation in the small group market;

(2) access to preventative health services;

(3) access to coverage for employers with fewer than 10 employees compared to employers with more than 10 employees;

(4) ease of comprehension and comparability of benefit plans for consumers;

(5) premium costs for employers and employees and out-of-pocket costs for employees;

(6) the number of lives and groups covered; and

(7) the number of carriers offering policies to small employers; and

(d) on or before December 31, 2001, the Commission shall report the findings and recommendations of the study to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 2, after line 10, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the implementation of this Act shall be contingent on an increase to \$10 million in the total allowable fees assessed in any fiscal year as provided under § 19-111 of the Health - General Article. If the limit on the total allowable fees is not increased, the Maryland Health Care Commission, no later than June 1, 2001, shall notify the Department of Legislative Services, 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991.”;

in line 11, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”; in line 12, strike “At” and substitute “It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at”; and in the same line, strike “December 1, 2001” and substitute “December 31, 2001”.