
By: **Delegate Barve**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2001

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Health Care Commission - Health Maintenance Organizations -**
3 **Information Regarding Behavioral Health Services**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission to include
5 certain information regarding behavioral health services in its solicitation of
6 certain quality of care information from enrollees of health maintenance
7 organizations and in its publication of certain findings; and generally relating to
8 the solicitation and publication of certain information regarding behavioral
9 health services by the Maryland Health Care Commission.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

11 Article - Health - General
12 Section 19-135(c)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2000 Replacement Volume)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article - Health - General**

18 19-135.

19 (c) (1) The Commission shall:

20 (i) Establish and implement a system to comparatively evaluate
21 the quality of care outcomes and performance measurements of health maintenance
22 organization benefit plans and services on an objective basis; and

23 (ii) Annually publish the summary findings of the evaluation.

24 (2) The purpose of a comparable performance measurement system
25 established under this subsection is to assist health maintenance organization benefit
26 plans to improve the quality of care provided by establishing a common set of
27 performance measurements and disseminating the findings of the performance
28 measurements to health maintenance organizations and interested parties.

1 (3) The system, where appropriate, shall solicit performance information
2 from enrollees of health maintenance organizations, INCLUDING INFORMATION
3 REGARDING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES.

4 (4) (i) The Commission shall adopt regulations to establish the system
5 of evaluation provided under this subsection.

6 (ii) Before adopting regulations to implement an evaluation system
7 under this subsection, the Commission shall consider any recommendations of the
8 quality of care subcommittee of the Group Health Association of America and the
9 National Committee for Quality Assurance.

10 (5) The Commission may contract with a private, nonprofit entity to
11 implement the system required under this subsection provided that the entity is not
12 an insurer.

13 (6) The annual evaluation summary required under paragraph (1) of this
14 subsection shall:

15 (i) Include a summary of the Drug Formulary Accreditation
16 Standards of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); and

17 (ii) Indicate whether the formulary development process of each
18 health maintenance organization evaluated complies with the National Committee
19 for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accreditation standards.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2001.