
By: **Delegate Barve**
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2001
Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 17, 2001

CHAPTER _____

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; making the
8 implementation of this Act subject to a certain contingency; and generally
9 relating to the solicitation and publication of certain information regarding
10 behavioral health services by the Maryland Health Care Commission.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - Health - General
13 Section 19-135(c)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2000 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article - Health - General**

19 19-135.

20 (c) (1) The Commission shall:

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

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

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

10 (3) The system, where appropriate, shall solicit performance information
11 from enrollees of health maintenance organizations, INCLUDING INFORMATION
12 REGARDING SATISFACTION WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, AS FEASIBLE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the implementation of
30 this Act shall be contingent on an increase to \$10 million in the total allowable fees
31 assessed in any fiscal year as provided by § 19-111 of the Health - General Article. If
32 the limit on the total allowable fees is not increased, the Maryland Health Care
33 Commission shall notify the Department of Legislative Services no later than June 1,
34 2001 at 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

35 ~~SECTION 3.~~ SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
36 effect October 1, 2001.

