
By: **Delegate Love**
Introduced and read first time: March 5, 2001
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Services Cost Review Commission - Study of Uncompensated Care in**
3 **Emergency Departments**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Health Services Cost Review Commission to
5 conduct a study of uncompensated care provided by emergency department
6 physicians in emergency departments at hospitals in the State and report the
7 results of the study to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before
8 a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and providing for the
9 contents of the study.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That the Health Services Cost Review Commission shall study
12 uncompensated care provided by emergency department physicians in emergency
13 departments at hospitals in the State and, on or before January 1, 2002, shall report
14 its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the
15 State Government Article, the House Economic Matters and Senate Finance
16 committees of the General Assembly. The Commission shall include in its study:

17 (1) the degree to which emergency department care is uncompensated;

18 (2) the moneys spent in attempting to collect compensation for
19 emergency department care and the eventual return on those moneys;

20 (3) the facilities at which emergency department care most frequently go
21 uncompensated;

22 (4) the degree to which the lack of compensation for emergency
23 department care drives the level of charges for emergency room services;

24 (5) the degree to which the lack of compensation for emergency
25 department care drives the level of uncompensated care in hospitals generally; and

26 (6) the degree to which the lack of compensation for emergency
27 department care drives the level of hospital rates generally; and

28 (7) the cost of emergency department care not included in Commission
29 rates.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 30 months and, at the end of
3 December 31, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
4 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.