

BY: Conference Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 466

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Health Maintenance Organizations -”; in the same line, strike “Noncontracting” and substitute “Health Care”; in lines 5, 8, and 10, in each instance, strike “repealing” and substitute “extending”; in line 12, after “manner;” insert “requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission to conduct a certain study and present findings and recommendations from the study to the House Economic Matters and Senate Finance Committees on or before a certain date; specifying certain issues about which the Commissions must make recommendations; specifying a certain intent of the General Assembly that certain licensed entities and individuals cooperate with the Commissions in a certain manner; requiring the State Board of Nursing, in consultation with representatives of certain health maintenance organizations, to study and report to the Senate Finance and House Environmental Matters Committees on certain issues concerning nurse practitioners;”; in line 22, strike “with” and substitute “without”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in lines 22, 27, and 31, in each instance, after “SERVICES” insert a comma.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, in line 16, strike the period; strike beginning with “Sections” in line 16 down through “months” in line 17; in line 17, strike “2002,” and substitute “2005,”; in lines 16, 19, 22, and 26, in each instance, strike the bracket; after line 26, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Maryland Health Care Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission shall jointly study and make recommendations to the House Economic Matters and Senate Finance Committees regarding health care provider reimbursements by commercial insurers,

(Over)

including health maintenance organizations, and self-pay patients in the State.

(b) In performing the study, the Commissions shall develop recommendations on the following issues:

(i) whether the State should maintain a prohibition against the balance billing of health maintenance organization subscribers for covered services;

(ii) the feasibility and desirability of the development of a provider rate setting system that would establish both minimum and maximum reimbursement levels for health care services delivered in the State;

(iii) the feasibility and desirability of expanding the hospital rate setting system to include reimbursement of hospital-based and university-based physicians;

(iv) the feasibility of establishing an uncompensated care fund to subsidize reimbursements to providers that deliver a disproportionate amount of uncompensated care to State residents, including emergency room physicians, trauma physicians, hospital-based and university-based physicians, and other health care providers as determined by the Commissions;

(v) the prevalence of health care provider reimbursement methodologies employed by commercial insurance carriers, including health maintenance organizations, that are based on provider licensure; and

(vi) the level of reimbursement provided by commercial payers in the State as a percentage of provider costs compared to reimbursement provided by public payers as a percentage of provider costs;

(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that licensed entities and individuals including health insurers, nonprofit health service plans, health maintenance organizations, hospitals, physicians, and nonphysical providers cooperate with the Commissions in the execution of the study by providing data in a timely and complete manner.

(d) The findings and recommendations of the study shall be presented, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Finance Committee on or before January 1, 2004.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1, 2003, the

Board of Nursing, in consultation with representatives of health maintenance organizations that operate in the State, shall report in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and House Environmental Matters Committee on whether health maintenance organizations in the State should:

(1) individually credential nurse practitioners; and

(2) allow for the designation by a member or subscriber of a nurse practitioner as a primary care provider.”;

and in line 27, strike “2.” and substitute “4.”.