

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 131

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike lines 2 and 3 in their entirety and substitute “Maryland Health Care Commission - Affordability of Health Insurance in Maryland - Study and Recommendations”; and strike in their entirety lines 4 through 12, inclusive, and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission to conduct a certain study; requiring the Commission to develop recommendations on ways to make private health insurance more affordable for Maryland residents; requiring the Commission to submit certain reports to the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a study and recommendations about the affordability of health insurance in Maryland.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 15 on page 1 through line 33 on page 2, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) The Maryland Health Care Commission shall conduct a study of:

(1) the number of, and the regulatory requirements relating to, health insurance carriers in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia;

(2) the factors that contribute to increases in health care costs in Maryland, including utilization of health care services;

(3) the role of tax-deferred health savings accounts and other models of offering health insurance coverage designed to increase consumer awareness of the cost of health care services;

(Over)

(4) ways to educate consumers about health care issues and promote personal accountability in health care;

(5) ways in which disease management programs can promote the appropriate management of chronic diseases;

(6) ways to encourage strategies to purchase health care that focus on quality and patient safety;

(7) ways to facilitate a more effective and efficient health care delivery system, including improved information technology and evidence-based medicine; and

(8) innovative programs in other states designed to encourage the appropriate use of health care services.

(b) Based on the study conducted under subsection (a) of this section, the Commission shall develop recommendations on ways to make private health insurance more affordable for Maryland residents.

(c) The Commission, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, shall submit to the General Assembly the following reports on its findings and recommendations:

(1) an interim report on or before January 1, 2005; and

(2) a final report on or before January 1, 2006.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 2, in line 35, strike “6 months” and substitute “1 year and 7 months”.

On page 3, in line 1, strike “December 31, 2004” and substitute “January 31, 2006”.