

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 967

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “and Elliott” and substitute “, Elliott, Benson, Boutin, Donoghue, Goldwater, Hubbard, Hurson, Kach, Mandel, Morhaim, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Pendergrass, Rosenberg, and V. Turner”; in line 2, strike “- Exemptions and Deductions”; in the same line, strike “Required” and substitute “- Study”; and strike in their entirety lines 3 through 16, inclusive, and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Insurance Administration and the Comptroller, to study and make recommendations on the use of income tax incentives and penalties to increase the number of individuals who purchase health care coverage; specifying that the study shall include certain items; requiring the Commission to report on its findings and recommendations in a certain manner on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a study of income tax incentives and penalties as a means of increasing health care coverage.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, in line 18, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

On pages 1 through 8, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 19 on page 1 through line 18 on page 8, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) The Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Insurance Administration and the Comptroller, shall study and make recommendations on the use of income tax incentives and penalties as a means of increasing the number of individuals who purchase health care coverage.

(b) The study shall include:

(Over)

(1) the types of tax incentives and penalties that could be used to encourage the purchase of health care coverage;

(2) the costs, including administrative costs, and benefits of various types of incentives and penalties;

(3) the cost of various types of health care coverage;

(4) the feasibility and desirability of requiring individuals above a certain income level to have some minimal level of health care coverage in order to take income tax deductions and exemptions;

(5) the issue of the potential loss of employment-based coverage during the tax year and its implications for tax penalties;

(6) whether incentives and penalties should target coverage for individual taxpayers or entire families; and

(7) any other related issues the Commission may deem appropriate.

(c) The Commission shall report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, on or before January 1, 2005.”.

On page 8, strike in their entirety lines 20 and 21 and substitute “June 1, 2004.”.