
By: **Delegate Pendergrass**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2004

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Children's Health Program - Reenrollment**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to allow
4 certain individuals whose family income is at certain levels to reenroll in
5 managed care organizations under the Maryland Children's Health Program
6 after a certain period of time; and generally relating to the Maryland Children's
7 Health Program.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Health - General
10 Section 15-303
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Health - General**

16 15-303.

17 (a) (1) The Department shall:

18 (I) [be] BE responsible for enrolling program recipients in
19 managed care organizations under the Maryland Children's Health Program
20 established under §§ 15-301 and 15-301.1 of this subtitle; AND

21 (II) ALLOW AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE FAMILY INCOME IS
22 ABOVE 200 PERCENT BUT AT OR BELOW 300 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY
23 GUIDELINES TO REENROLL IN MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE
24 MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM AFTER A 6-MONTH PERIOD WITHOUT
25 COVERAGE.

26 (2) The Department may contract with an entity to perform any part or
27 all of its enrollment responsibilities under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

1 (3) The Department or its enrollment contractor, to the extent feasible in
2 its marketing, outreach, and enrollment programs, shall hire individuals receiving
3 assistance under the Family Investment Program established under Article 88A of
4 the Code.

5 (b) (1) To the extent allowed under federal law and regulations, the
6 Secretary shall implement expedited eligibility for any individual who applies
7 through the local health department for the Maryland Children's Health Program
8 under §§ 15-301 and 15-301.1 of this subtitle, including any individual with
9 associated food stamp, cash assistance, or medical assistance cases.

10 (2) The Secretary shall designate organizations that may:

11 (i) Assist individuals in the application process; and

12 (ii) Perform other outreach functions.

13 (3) In designating the organizations under paragraph (2) of this
14 subsection, the Secretary shall ensure the inclusion of statewide and local
15 organizations that provide services to children of all ages in each region of the State,
16 and shall provide such organizations with:

17 (i) Forms that are necessary for parents, guardians, and other
18 individuals to submit applications to the Maryland Children's Health Program on
19 behalf of a child; and

20 (ii) Information on how to assist parents, guardians, and other
21 individuals in completing and filing such applications.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 July 1, 2004.