
By: **Delegates Hammen, Benson, Bobo, Donoghue, Franchot, Frush,
Goldwater, Haynes, Hubbard, Kaiser, Lee, Love, Mandel, Menes, Moe,
Montgomery, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Patterson, Pendergrass,
Quinter, Rudolph, Taylor, V. Turner, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2005

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Benefit Plans - Reimbursement to Health Care Practitioners**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain persons from reimbursing a health care
4 practitioner less than certain amounts; requiring the Maryland Health Care
5 Commission to conduct a study of certain reimbursement requirements and to
6 report the results of its study to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
7 before a certain date; making this Act an emergency measure; providing for the
8 termination of this Act; and generally relating to health benefit plan
9 reimbursement to health care practitioners.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That:

12 (a) Except for a managed care organization authorized by Title 15, Subtitle 1
13 of the Health - General Article, an insurer, nonprofit health service plan, health
14 maintenance organization, dental plan, organization, or any other person that
15 provides health benefit plans subject to regulation by the State may not reimburse a
16 health care practitioner in an amount less than the global fee, capitation rate, or per
17 unit sum or rate being paid to the health care practitioner on November 1, 2004; and

18 (b) The Maryland Health Care Commission shall study the impact of the
19 reimbursement requirements in subsection (a) of this Section on access to health care,
20 health care costs, and the health insurance market and shall report the results of its
21 study to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the
22 General Assembly, on or before January 1, 2006.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
24 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
25 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
26 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
27 the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through June 30, 2008, and, at the end
28 of June 30, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
29 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

