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By: **Delegates Bohanan and Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                           **State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program -**  
3                           **Alternative Medicine Integration**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare  
5 Benefits Program to integrate alternative medicine; specifying certain practices  
6 that must be included in the integration of alternative medicine; authorizing the  
7 Secretary of Budget and Management to contract with a private organization to  
8 integrate alternative medicine into the Program; defining a certain term;  
9 requiring the Department of Budget and Management to submit a certain report  
10 to the General Assembly on certain dates; providing for a delayed effective date;  
11 and generally relating to the integration of alternative medicine into the State  
12 Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article - State Personnel and Pensions  
15 Section 2-502  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2004 Replacement Volume)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article - State Personnel and Pensions  
20 Section 2-516  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2004 Replacement Volume)

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

25                           **Article - State Personnel and Pensions**

26 2-502.

27 (a) There is a State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits  
28 Program, to be developed and administered by the Secretary.

1 (b) (1) The Program:

2 (i) subject to the regulations adopted under § 2-503 of this subtitle,  
3 shall encompass all units in the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches of State  
4 government, including any unit with an independent personnel system;

5 (ii) shall include the health insurance benefit options established  
6 by the Secretary; [and]

7 (iii) SHALL INTEGRATE ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE, AS PROVIDED IN §  
8 2-516 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

9 (IV) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, may  
10 include any other benefit option that the Secretary considers appropriate.

11 (2) The Program may not contain any of the benefits provided under  
12 Division II or Title 35 or Title 37 of this article.

13 2-516.

14 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE" INCLUDES ACUPUNCTURE,  
15 CHIROPRACTIC, AND MASSAGE THERAPY.

16 (B) ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE SHALL BE INTEGRATED INTO THE PROGRAM.

17 (C) INTEGRATION OF ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE SHALL INCLUDE:

18 (1) PROVIDER PROFILING, IN WHICH A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF  
19 EACH PROVIDER'S CLINICAL OUTCOMES AND COST EFFECTIVENESS IS COMPARED  
20 TO REGIONAL STANDARDS;

21 (2) PROVIDER CREDENTIALING, WHICH INCLUDES SPECIALTY SPECIFIC  
22 TESTING FOR CLINICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC COMPETENCY AND EVALUATION OF  
23 COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS;

24 (3) UTILIZATION REVIEW AND MEDICAL CASE MANAGEMENT; AND

25 (4) PATIENT EDUCATION ABOUT ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE.

26 (D) THE SECRETARY MAY CONTRACT WITH A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION TO  
27 INTEGRATE ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE INTO THE PROGRAM.

28 (E) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
29 REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE  
30 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE ON THE CLINICAL AND COST EFFECTIVENESS OF THE  
31 INTEGRATION OF ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
33 January 1, 2006.