

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 608
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “Delegate Kach” and substitute “Delegates Kach, Barve, Benson, Boteler, Bromwell, Costa, Donoghue, Elliott, Frank, Hammen, Hubbard, Kohl, Kullen, Mandel, McDonough, Morhaim, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Pendergrass, Rudolph, V. Turner, and Weldon”; strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute “Joint Legislative Task Force on Small Group Market Health Insurance - Report and Modification of Duties”; strike in their entirety lines 3 through 17, inclusive, and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of altering the date by which the Joint Legislative Task Force on Small Group Market Health Insurance is required to submit a certain report to the presiding officers and certain committees of the General Assembly; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding certain additional issues; and generally relating to the Joint Legislative Task Force on Small Group Market Health Insurance.”;

and strike in their entirety lines 18 through 22, inclusive, and substitute:

“BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Chapter 409 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005
Section 1(f)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 25 on page 1 through line 23 on page 3, inclusive, and substitute:

“Chapter 409 of the Acts of 2005

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

(Over)

(f) The Task Force:

(1) shall study and make recommendations regarding small group market health insurance, including:

(i) the use of health status as a risk factor for rate adjustment purposes;

(ii) the permissible variation in the community rate;

(iii) expanding the permissible range of products;

(iv) the number of employers offering the Limited Benefit Plan;

(v) medical loss ratios, according to group size;

(vi) availability of association health plans in the small group market; [and]

(VII) THE USE OF A STATE-SUBSIDIZED REINSURANCE POOL TO LOWER PRICES IN THE SMALL GROUP MARKET;

(VIII) THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE TO STRENGTHEN THE SMALL GROUP MARKET; AND

[(vii)] (IX) any other issue or factor the Task Force considers important;

and

(2) shall, on or before [January 1, 2006] JULY 1, 2007, report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the presiding officers of the General Assembly, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.”;

in line 24, strike “3.” and substitute “2.”; and in line 25, strike “October” and substitute “July”.