
By: **Delegate Bohanan**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2006

Assigned to: Appropriations

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 into the Program;
6 authorizing the Secretary of Budget and Management to contract with a private
7 organization to integrate alternative medicine into the Program; defining a
8 certain term; requiring the Department of Budget and Management to submit a
9 certain report to the General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing for
10 the effective date of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the termination
11 of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to the integration of
12 alternative medicine into the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare
13 Benefits Program.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article - State Personnel and Pensions
16 Section 2-502(b)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article - State Personnel and Pensions
21 Section 2-517
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
25 Article - State Personnel and Pensions
26 Section 2-502(b)
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)
29 (As enacted by Chapter 444 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005)

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

3 **Article - State Personnel and Pensions**

4 2-502.

5 (b) (1) The Program:

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

9 (ii) except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, shall include
10 the health insurance benefit options established by the Secretary; [and]

11 (iii) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION,
12 SHALL INTEGRATE ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE, AS PROVIDED IN § 2-517 OF THIS
13 SUBTITLE; AND

14 (IV) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection and
15 subsection (c) of this section, may include any other benefit option that the Secretary
16 considers appropriate.

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

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
20 read as follows:

21 **Article - State Personnel and Pensions**

22 2-517.

23 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE" MEANS SERVICES
24 PERFORMED WITHIN THE LAWFUL SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF A CHIROPRACTOR
25 LICENSED UNDER THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

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

27 (C) INTEGRATION OF ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE INTO THE PROGRAM SHALL
28 INCLUDE:

29 (1) PROVIDER PROFILING, IN WHICH A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF
30 THE CLINICAL OUTCOMES AND COST EFFECTIVENESS OF EACH PROVIDER IS
31 COMPARED TO REGIONAL STANDARDS;

32 (2) PROVIDER CREDENTIALING, WHICH INCLUDES SPECIALTY-SPECIFIC
33 TESTING FOR CLINICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC COMPETENCY AND EVALUATION OF
34 COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS;

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

2 (4) PATIENT EDUCATION ABOUT ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE.

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

5 (E) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
6 REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE
7 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE CLINICAL OUTCOMES AND COST EFFECTIVENESS
8 OF THE INTEGRATION OF ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE INTO THE PROGRAM.

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
10 read as follows:

11 **Article - State Personnel and Pensions**

12 2-502.

13 (b) (1) The Program:

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

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

19 (iii) SHALL INTEGRATE ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE, AS PROVIDED IN §
20 2-517 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

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

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

25 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 3 of this Act shall
26 take effect on the taking effect of the termination provision specified in Section 7 of
27 Chapter 444 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005. If that termination provision
28 takes effect, Section 1 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.
29 This Act may not be interpreted to have any effect on that termination provision.

30 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions
31 of Section 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2006.