
By: **Delegates Benson and Nathan-Pulliam**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance - Coverage for Services Following a Mastectomy or**
3 **Surgical Removal of a Testicle**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing a certain termination date for insurance coverage for
5 certain home visits following a mastectomy or surgical removal of a testicle;
6 requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission to assess the impacts of
7 requiring health insurance carriers to provide coverage for the cost of certain
8 inpatient hospitalization services following a mastectomy or surgical removal of
9 a testicle; requiring the Commission to report to the General Assembly on the
10 results of its study; and generally relating to health insurance coverage for
11 services following a mastectomy or surgical removal of a testicle.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article - Insurance
14 Section 15-832
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Chapter 120 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1999, as amended by
19 Chapter 59 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2003
20 Section 7

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

23 **Article - Insurance**

24 15-832.

25 (a) In this section, "mastectomy" means the surgical removal of all or part of a
26 breast as a result of breast cancer.

27 (b) This section applies to:

1 (1) insurers and nonprofit health service plans that provide inpatient
2 hospital, medical, or surgical benefits to individuals or groups on an
3 expense-incurred basis under health insurance policies or contracts that are issued or
4 delivered in the State; and

5 (2) health maintenance organizations that provide inpatient hospital,
6 medical, or surgical benefits to individuals or groups under contracts that are issued
7 or delivered in the State.

8 (c) For a patient who receives less than 48 hours of inpatient hospitalization
9 following a mastectomy or the surgical removal of a testicle, or who undergoes a
10 mastectomy or the surgical removal of a testicle on an outpatient basis, an entity
11 subject to this section shall provide coverage for:

12 (1) one home visit scheduled to occur within 24 hours after discharge
13 from the hospital or outpatient health care facility; and

14 (2) an additional home visit if prescribed by the patient's attending
15 physician.

16 (d) Each entity subject to this section shall provide notice annually to its
17 enrollees and insureds about the coverage required under this section.

18 **Chapter 120 of the Acts of 1999, as amended by Chapter 59 of the Acts of 2003**

19 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in
20 Section 6 of this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 1999. [Section 2 of this Act
21 shall remain effective for a period of 7 years and, at the end of September 30, 2006,
22 with no further action required by the General Assembly, Section 2 of this Act shall be
23 abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

25 (a) The Maryland Health Care Commission shall assess the social, medical,
26 and financial impacts of requiring health insurance carriers to provide:

27 (1) at minimum, coverage for the cost of inpatient hospitalization
28 services for an overnight stay following a mastectomy or surgical removal of a testicle;
29 and

30 (2) if a medical complication related to the mastectomy or surgical
31 removal of a testicle should occur, additional medically necessary inpatient
32 hospitalization services.

33 (b) The assessment shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements
34 of § 15-1501(c) of the Insurance Article.

35 (c) On or before January 1, 2007, the Commission shall report, in accordance
36 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on the
37 results of its assessment.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 2006.