
By: **Senator Astle**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance - Small Group Market - Self-Employed Individuals and**
3 **Sole Proprietors**

4 FOR the purpose of altering a certain termination date for a certain Act that altered
5 certain criteria for determining when an employee is considered an eligible
6 employee for small group market health insurance, repealed certain provisions
7 that established when an individual is considered to be a small employer under
8 small group market health insurance, repealed a requirement that a carrier
9 establish a certain open enrollment period for self-employed individuals,
10 authorized certain individuals to remain covered under a certain health benefit
11 plan, and altered certain definitions; repealing a requirement that the
12 Maryland Insurance Administration and the Maryland Health Insurance Plan
13 make a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly; and
14 generally relating to coverage for self-employed individuals and sole proprietors
15 under small group market health insurance.

16 BY repealing

17 Chapter 347 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005

18 Section 3

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Chapter 347 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005

21 Section 4

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

23 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Chapter 347 of the Acts of 2005**

25 [SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before September
26 1, 2008, the Maryland Insurance Administration and the Maryland Health Insurance
27 Plan shall submit a report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
28 Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government
29 Operations Committee on:

1 (a) the effect of excluding self-employed individuals and sole proprietors from
2 the small group market on the availability and affordability of health insurance in the
3 small group market; and

4 (b) the number of self-employed individuals and sole proprietors enrolled in
5 the Maryland Health Insurance Plan.]

6 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2005. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of [3
8 years] 1 YEAR and, at the end of September 30, [2008] 2006, with no further action
9 required by the General Assembly, Sections 1 and 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and
10 of no further force and effect.

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