

**HB0572/766981/1**

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 572

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “Expansion of Coverage” and substitute “Personal Responsibility – Study”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 3 on page 1 through line 5 on page 2, inclusive, and substitute:

“FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with certain other State agencies, to study the issue of personal responsibility for obtaining health care coverage; requiring the study to include certain elements; requiring the Commission to report the results of its study, together with any recommendations, to certain legislative committees; and generally relating to a study of personal responsibility for obtaining health care coverage.”.

On page 2, strike in their entirety lines 6 through 28, inclusive; and in line 30, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 2 through 12, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 31 on page 2 through line 3 on page 12, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) The Maryland Health Care Commission, in consultation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland Insurance Administration, the Health Services Cost Review Commission, and the Office of the Comptroller, shall study the issue of personal responsibility for obtaining health care coverage.

(Over)

(b) The study shall address:

(1) the affordability of health insurance, particularly for individuals without employer-sponsored coverage;

(2) the need to subsidize health insurance for individuals with low income or with health conditions that hinder the purchase of insurance in the commercial market;

(3) the use of incentives, such as a child and dependent care tax credit or an income tax surcharge, to encourage individuals to purchase health insurance;

(4) public and private strategies to educate individuals and employers about the importance of health coverage;

(5) whether individual responsibility should be accompanied by some form of employer responsibility;

(6) enforcement issues, including alternative approaches to the reporting and verification of health care coverage;

(7) potential reductions in inpatient and outpatient uncompensated care and government expenditures that may result from various personal responsibility provisions; and

(8) the need for religious exemptions from any proposed health care coverage requirement.

(c) On or before December 1, 2007, the Commission shall report the findings of its study, together with any recommendations, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee.”.

On page 12, in line 4, strike “5.” and substitute “2.”; and in lines 4 and 5, strike “, except as provided in Section 4 of this Act,”.