

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 339

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “and Weldon” and substitute “Weldon, Beitzel, Benson, Donoghue, Elliott, Hammen, Hubbard, Kullen, Mizeur, Montgomery, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Pendergrass, Riley, and Tarrant”; strike beginning with “altering” in line 3 down through “market;” in line 4; in line 6, after the first “rate” insert “for certain health benefit plans offered in the small group market”; in the same line, strike “discounted rate” and substitute “discount”; strike beginning with “eligible” in line 7 down through “participate” in line 8 and substitute “participation”; in line 8, after “program;” insert “requiring the discount to be applied to reduce a certain rate, actuarially justified, offered uniformly to all small employers, and approved by the Maryland Insurance Commissioner; requiring the Maryland Health Care Commission, on or before a certain date, to adopt regulations to require carriers to collect and report certain participation data; requiring the Commission, on or before a certain date, to report to the Governor and certain legislative committees regarding the effect of a certain rate adjustment on participation in certain health benefit plans; providing for the termination of this Act;”; and in lines 8 and 9, strike “providing for the application of this Act;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, in lines 5, 6, 12, and 22, in each instance, strike the bracket; in line 15, after “(4)” insert “(I)”; in the same line, strike “A” and substitute “**SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AFTER APPLYING THE RISK ADJUSTMENT FACTORS UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A**”; in the same line, strike “DISCOUNTED RATE” and substitute “**DISCOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 20%**”; strike beginning with “ELIGIBLE” in line 16 down through “PARTICIPATE” in line 18 and substitute “**PARTICIPATION**”; after line 18, insert:

(Over)

“(II) A DISCOUNT OFFERED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE:

1. APPLIED TO REDUCE THE RATE OTHERWISE PAYABLE BY THE SMALL EMPLOYER;

2. ACTUARIALLY JUSTIFIED;

3. OFFERED UNIFORMLY TO ALL SMALL EMPLOYERS;

AND

4. APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER.”;

and in line 22, strike “ADJUSTMENT”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3, in line 22, after “(c)” insert “(1)”; in line 23, strike the brackets; in the same line, strike “50%”; in the same line, after “or” insert “50%”; and after line 24, insert:

“(2) (I) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2007, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT REQUIRE CARRIERS TO COLLECT AND REPORT TO THE COMMISSION DATA ON PARTICIPATION, BY RATE BAND, IN HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS ISSUED, DELIVERED, OR RENEWED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(II) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2011, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT 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 REGARDING

THE EFFECT OF THE 50% RATE ADJUSTMENT AUTHORIZED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ON PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS ISSUED, DELIVERED, OR RENEWED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 4, strike in their entirety lines 9 through 11, inclusive; in line 12, strike “3.” and substitute “2.”; in line 13, strike “October” and substitute “July”; and in the same line, after the period insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.