

HOUSE BILL 1179

C3

71r3034

By: **Delegate Pendergrass**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2007

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance – Uniform Credentialing Form**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing a requirement that the Insurance Commissioner
4 designate a uniform credentialing form through regulation; altering a certain
5 definition; and generally relating to a uniform credentialing form used by health
6 insurance carriers.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Insurance
9 Section 15–112.1
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Insurance**

15 15–112.1.

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) (i) “Carrier” means:

18 1. an insurer;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 2. a nonprofit health service plan;
- 2 3. a health maintenance organization;
- 3 4. a dental plan organization; or
- 4 5. any other person that provides health benefit plans
- 5 subject to regulation by the State.

6 (ii) “Carrier” includes an entity that arranges a provider panel
7 for a carrier.

8 (3) “Credentialing intermediary” means a person to whom a carrier
9 has delegated credentialing or recredentialing authority and responsibility.

10 (4) “Health care provider” means an individual who is licensed,
11 certified, or otherwise authorized under the Health Occupations Article to provide
12 health care services.

13 (5) “Provider panel” means the providers that contract with a carrier
14 to provide health care services to the enrollees under a health benefit plan of the
15 carrier.

16 (6) “Uniform credentialing form” means the form designated by the
17 Commissioner [through regulation] for use by a carrier or its credentialing
18 intermediary for credentialing and recredentialing a health care provider for
19 participation on a provider panel.

20 (b) (1) A carrier or its credentialing intermediary shall accept the uniform
21 credentialing form as the sole application for a health care provider to become
22 credentialed or recredentialed for a provider panel of the carrier.

23 (2) A carrier or its credentialing intermediary shall make the uniform
24 credentialing form available to any health care provider that is to be credentialed or
25 recredentialed by that carrier or credentialing intermediary.

26 (c) The Commissioner may impose a penalty not to exceed \$500 against any
27 carrier for each violation of this section by the carrier or its credentialing
28 intermediary.

29 (d) (1) The Commissioner shall adopt regulations to implement the
30 provisions of this section.

1 (2) In adopting the regulations required under paragraph (1) of this
2 subsection, the Commissioner shall consider the use of an electronic format for the
3 uniform credentialing form and the filing of the uniform credentialing form by
4 electronic means.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 July 1, 2007.