

HOUSE BILL 318

C3, L1, F1

9lr0823

By: **Delegates Barkley, Montgomery, and Reznik**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2009

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations and Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance – Coverage, Reimbursement, and Benefits – Counties,**
3 **County School Systems, and State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare**
4 **Benefits Program**

5 FOR the purpose of making certain provisions of law relating to health insurance
6 coverage, required reimbursement, and required benefits applicable to counties,
7 county school systems, and the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare
8 Benefits Program; providing for the application of this Act; and generally
9 relating to health insurance requirements for counties, county school systems,
10 and the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program.

11 BY adding to

12 Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions
13 Section 23–101 to be under the new title “Title 23. Health Benefit Plans”
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Education
18 Section 4–127
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2008 Replacement Volume)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

22 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
23 Section 2–502
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions**

2 **TITLE 23. HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS.**

3 **23-101.**

4 **THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 15, SUBTITLES 4, 7, AND 8 OF THE INSURANCE**
5 **ARTICLE SHALL APPLY TO COUNTIES IN THE SAME MANNER THEY APPLY TO**
6 **INSURERS, NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS, AND HEALTH MAINTENANCE**
7 **ORGANIZATIONS.**

8 **Article – Education**

9 **4-127.**

10 **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE, THE**
11 **PROVISIONS OF TITLE 15, SUBTITLES 4, 7, AND 8 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE**
12 **SHALL APPLY TO COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN THE SAME MANNER THEY APPLY**
13 **TO INSURERS, NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS, AND HEALTH**
14 **MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS.**

15 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

16 **2-502.**

17 (a) There is a State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits
18 Program, to be developed and administered by the Secretary.

19 (b) (1) The Program:

20 (i) subject to the regulations adopted under § 2-503 of this
21 subtitle, shall encompass all units in the Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches
22 of State government, including any unit with an independent personnel system;

23 (ii) **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION**, shall
24 include the health insurance benefit options established by the Secretary; and

25 (iii) except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, may
26 include any other benefit option that the Secretary considers appropriate.

27 (2) The Program may not contain any of the benefits provided under
28 Division II or Title 35 or Title 37 of this article.

29 **(3) THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 15, SUBTITLES 4, 7, AND 8 OF THE**
30 **INSURANCE ARTICLE SHALL APPLY TO THE PROGRAM IN THE SAME MANNER**

1 **THEY APPLY TO INSURERS, NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLANS, AND HEALTH**
2 **MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to
4 the counties, the county school systems, and the State Employee and Retiree Health
5 and Welfare Benefits Program at the time their health benefit plans are issued,
6 delivered, or renewed in the State on or after January 1, 2010.

7 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2009.