

HOUSE BILL 324

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HB 673/09 – HGO

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By: **Delegates Kullen, Benson, Bohanan, Costa, Donoghue, Elliott, Jameson,
Jenkins, Kipke, Krebs, McDonough, Nathan–Pulliam, Oaks,
Pena–Melnyk, Reznik, Tarrant, V. Turner, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2010
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Patient Referrals – Imaging and Radiation Therapy Services – Accreditation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “in–office ancillary services” as it relates
4 to certain referrals by certain health care practitioners so as to include magnetic
5 resonance imaging services, computed tomography scan services, and radiation
6 therapy services; altering certain exceptions to certain patient referral
7 prohibitions; requiring health care entities that furnish magnetic resonance
8 imaging services, computed tomography scan services, and radiation therapy
9 services, to receive accreditation from certain organizations by certain dates;
10 authorizing the provisional accreditation of certain health care entities;
11 requiring certain health care entities to maintain certain standards and make
12 available evidence of accreditation; defining a certain term; and generally
13 relating to the referral of patients for magnetic resonance imaging services,
14 computed tomography scan services, and radiation therapy services.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Health Occupations
17 Section 1–301, 1–302, and 1–303
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2009 Replacement Volume)

20 BY adding to
21 Article – Health Occupations
22 Section 1–601 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 6. Accreditation of
23 Business Entities That Furnish Magnetic Resonance Imaging Services,
24 Computed Tomography Scan Services, and Radiation Therapy Services”
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2009 Replacement Volume)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Health Occupations**

4 1–301.

5 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

6 (b) (1) “Beneficial interest” means ownership, through equity, debt, or
7 other means, of any financial interest.

8 (2) “Beneficial interest” does not include ownership, through equity,
9 debt, or other means, of securities, including shares or bonds, debentures, or other
10 debt instruments:

11 (i) In a corporation that is traded on a national exchange or
12 over the counter on the national market system;

13 (ii) That at the time of acquisition, were purchased at the same
14 price and on the same terms generally available to the public;

15 (iii) That are available to individuals who are not in a position to
16 refer patients to the health care entity on the same terms that are offered to health
17 care practitioners who may refer patients to the health care entity;

18 (iv) That are unrelated to the past or expected volume of
19 referrals from the health care practitioner to the health care entity; and

20 (v) That are not marketed differently to health care
21 practitioners that may make referrals than they are marketed to other individuals.

22 (c) (1) “Compensation arrangement” means any agreement or system
23 involving any remuneration between a health care practitioner or the immediate
24 family member of the health care practitioner and a health care entity.

25 (2) “Compensation arrangement” does not include:

26 (i) Compensation or shares under a faculty practice plan or a
27 professional corporation affiliated with a teaching hospital and comprised of health
28 care practitioners who are members of the faculty of a university;

29 (ii) Amounts paid under a bona fide employment agreement
30 between a health care entity and a health care practitioner or an immediate family
31 member of the health care practitioner;

1 (iii) An arrangement between a health care entity and a health
2 care practitioner or the immediate family member of a health care practitioner for the
3 provision of any services, as an independent contractor, if:

4 1. The arrangement is for identifiable services;

5 2. The amount of the remuneration under the
6 arrangement is consistent with the fair market value of the service and is not
7 determined in a manner that takes into account, directly or indirectly, the volume or
8 value of any referrals by the referring health care practitioner; and

9 3. The compensation is provided in accordance with an
10 agreement that would be commercially reasonable even if no referrals were made to
11 the health care provider;

12 (iv) Compensation for health care services pursuant to a referral
13 from a health care practitioner and rendered by a health care entity, that employs or
14 contracts with an immediate family member of the health care practitioner, in which
15 the immediate family member's compensation is not based on the referral;

16 (v) An arrangement for compensation which is provided by a
17 health care entity to a health care practitioner or the immediate family member of the
18 health care practitioner to induce the health care practitioner or the immediate family
19 member of the health care practitioner to relocate to the geographic area served by the
20 health care entity in order to be a member of the medical staff of a hospital, if:

21 1. The health care practitioner or the immediate family
22 member of the health care practitioner is not required to refer patients to the health
23 care entity;

24 2. The amount of the compensation under the
25 arrangement is not determined in a manner that takes into account, directly or
26 indirectly, the volume or value of any referrals by the referring health care
27 practitioner; and

28 3. The health care entity needs the services of the
29 practitioner to meet community health care needs and has had difficulty in recruiting
30 a practitioner;

31 (vi) Payments made for the rental or lease of office space if the
32 payments are:

33 1. At fair market value; and

34 2. In accordance with an arm's length transaction;

1 (vii) Payments made for the rental or lease of equipment if the
2 payments are:

- 3 1. At fair market value; and
- 4 2. In accordance with an arm's length transaction; or

5 (viii) Payments made for the sale of property or a health care
6 practice if the payments are:

- 7 1. At fair market value;
- 8 2. In accordance with an arm's length transaction; and
- 9 3. The remuneration is provided in accordance with an
10 agreement that would be commercially reasonable even if no referrals were made.

11 (d) "Direct supervision" means a health care practitioner is present on the
12 premises where the health care services or tests are provided and is available for
13 consultation within the treatment area.

14 (e) "Faculty practice plan" means a tax-exempt organization established
15 under Maryland law by or at the direction of a university to accommodate the
16 professional practice of members of the faculty who are health care practitioners.

17 (f) "Group practice" means a group of two or more health care practitioners
18 legally organized as a partnership, professional corporation, foundation, not-for-profit
19 corporation, faculty practice plan, or similar association:

20 (1) In which each health care practitioner who is a member of the
21 group provides substantially the full range of services which the practitioner routinely
22 provides through the joint use of shared office space, facilities, equipment, and
23 personnel;

24 (2) For which substantially all of the services of the health care
25 practitioners who are members of the group are provided through the group and are
26 billed in the name of the group and amounts so received are treated as receipts of the
27 group; and

28 (3) In which the overhead expenses of and the income from the
29 practice are distributed in accordance with methods previously determined on an
30 annual basis by members of the group.

31 (g) "Health care entity" means a business entity that provides health care
32 services for the:

1 (1) Testing, diagnosis, or treatment of human disease or dysfunction;
2 or

3 (2) Dispensing of drugs, medical devices, medical appliances, or
4 medical goods for the treatment of human disease or dysfunction.

5 (h) “Health care practitioner” means a person who is licensed, certified, or
6 otherwise authorized under this article to provide health care services in the ordinary
7 course of business or practice of a profession.

8 (i) “Health care service” means medical procedures, tests and services
9 provided to a patient by or through a health care entity.

10 (j) “Immediate family member” means a health care practitioner’s:

11 (1) Spouse;

12 (2) Child;

13 (3) Child’s spouse;

14 (4) Parent;

15 (5) Spouse’s parent;

16 (6) Sibling; or

17 (7) Sibling’s spouse.

18 (k) (1) “In-office ancillary services” means those basic health care services
19 and tests routinely performed in the office of one or more health care practitioners.

20 (2) [Except for a radiologist group practice or an office consisting
21 solely of one or more radiologists, “in-office ancillary services” does not include:

22 (i) Magnetic] **“IN-OFFICE ANCILLARY SERVICES” INCLUDES**
23 **MAGNETIC** resonance imaging services[;

24 (ii) Radiation], **RADIATION** therapy services[;], or

25 [(iii) Computer] **COMPUTED** tomography scan services, **IF:**

26 **(i) THE HEALTH CARE ENTITY FURNISHING THE SERVICES**
27 **MEETS THE ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SUBTITLE 6 OF**
28 **THIS TITLE; AND**

1 **(II) 1. THE HEALTH CARE ENTITY FURNISHING THE**
2 **SERVICES IS A RADIOLOGIST GROUP PRACTICE OR AN OFFICE CONSISTING**
3 **SOLELY OF ONE OR MORE RADIOLOGISTS; OR**

4 **2. THE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED IN COMPLIANCE**
5 **WITH § 1-302(D)(4)(I)1D AND (II)2 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

6 **(L) “PERSONALLY SUPERVISE” MEANS THE EXERCISE OF ON-SITE**
7 **SUPERVISION OR IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE DIRECTION BY A HEALTH CARE**
8 **PRACTITIONER FOR EMPLOYEES PERFORMING IN-OFFICE ANCILLARY SERVICES**
9 **OR TESTS AS A RESULT OF A REFERRAL BY THE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER.**

10 **[(I)] (M) (1) “Referral” means any referral of a patient for health care**
11 **services.**

12 (2) “Referral” includes:

13 (i) The forwarding of a patient by one health care practitioner
14 to another health care practitioner or to a health care entity outside the health care
15 practitioner’s office or group practice; or

16 (ii) The request or establishment by a health care practitioner of
17 a plan of care for the provision of health care services outside the health care
18 practitioner’s office or group practice.

19 1-302.

20 (a) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a health care
21 practitioner may not refer a patient, or direct an employee of or person under contract
22 with the health care practitioner to refer a patient to a health care entity:

23 (1) In which the health care practitioner or the practitioner in
24 combination with the practitioner’s immediate family owns a beneficial interest;

25 (2) In which the practitioner’s immediate family owns a beneficial
26 interest of 3 percent or greater; or

27 (3) With which the health care practitioner, the practitioner’s
28 immediate family, or the practitioner in combination with the practitioner’s immediate
29 family has a compensation arrangement.

30 (b) A health care entity or a referring health care practitioner may not
31 present or cause to be presented to any individual, third party payor, or other person a
32 claim, bill, or other demand for payment for health care services provided as a result of
33 a referral prohibited by this subtitle.

1 (c) Subsection (a) of this section applies to any arrangement or scheme,
 2 including a cross-referral arrangement, which the health care practitioner knows or
 3 should know has a principal purpose of assuring indirect referrals that would be in
 4 violation of subsection (a) of this section if made directly.

5 (d) The provisions of this section do not apply to:

6 (1) A health care practitioner when treating a member of a health
 7 maintenance organization as defined in § 19-701 of the Health – General Article if the
 8 health care practitioner does not have a beneficial interest in the health care entity;

9 (2) A health care practitioner who refers a patient to another health
 10 care practitioner in the same group practice as the referring health care practitioner;

11 (3) A health care practitioner with a beneficial interest in a health
 12 care entity who refers a patient to that health care entity for health care services or
 13 tests, if the services or tests are personally performed by or under the direct
 14 supervision of the referring health care practitioner;

15 (4) A health care practitioner who refers in-office ancillary services or
 16 tests that are:

17 (i) 1. Personally furnished by:

18 [1.] A. The referring health care practitioner;

19 [2.] B. A health care practitioner in the same group
 20 practice as the referring health care practitioner; [or]

21 [3.] C. An individual who is employed and personally
 22 supervised by the qualified referring health care practitioner or a health care
 23 practitioner in the same group practice as the referring health care practitioner; **OR**

24 **D. FOR MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SERVICES,
 25 COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN SERVICES, AND RADIATION THERAPY SERVICES,
 26 AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS EMPLOYED AND DIRECTLY SUPERVISED BY THE
 27 QUALIFIED REFERRING HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER OR A HEALTH CARE
 28 PRACTITIONER IN THE SAME GROUP PRACTICE AS THE REFERRING HEALTH
 29 CARE PRACTITIONER;**

30 (ii) Provided [in]:

31 1. **IN** the same building where the referring health care
 32 practitioner or a health care practitioner in the same group practice as the referring
 33 health care practitioner furnishes services; [and] **OR**

1 **2. FOR MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SERVICES,**
2 **COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN SERVICES, AND RADIATION THERAPY SERVICES,**
3 **IN THE SAME BUILDING WHERE THE REFERRING HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER**
4 **OR A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER IN THE SAME GROUP PRACTICE AS THE**
5 **REFERRING HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER FURNISHES SERVICES DURING THE**
6 **REGULAR OFFICE HOURS MAINTAINED BY THE REFERRING HEALTH CARE**
7 **PRACTITIONER OR A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER IN THE SAME GROUP**
8 **PRACTICE AS THE REFERRING HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER; AND**

9 (iii) Billed by:

10 1. The health care practitioner performing or
11 supervising the services; or

12 2. A group practice of which the health care practitioner
13 performing or supervising the services is a member;

14 (5) A health care practitioner who has a beneficial interest in a health
15 care entity if, in accordance with regulations adopted by the Secretary:

16 (i) The Secretary determines that the health care practitioner's
17 beneficial interest is essential to finance and to provide the health care entity; and

18 (ii) The Secretary, in conjunction with the Maryland Health
19 Care Commission, determines that the health care entity is needed to ensure
20 appropriate access for the community to the services provided at the health care
21 entity;

22 (6) A health care practitioner employed or affiliated with a hospital,
23 who refers a patient to a health care entity that is owned or controlled by a hospital or
24 under common ownership or control with a hospital if the health care practitioner does
25 not have a direct beneficial interest in the health care entity;

26 (7) A health care practitioner or member of a single specialty group
27 practice, including any person employed or affiliated with a hospital, who has a
28 beneficial interest in a health care entity that is owned or controlled by a hospital or
29 under common ownership or control with a hospital if:

30 (i) The health care practitioner or other member of that single
31 specialty group practice provides the health care services to a patient pursuant to a
32 referral or in accordance with a consultation requested by another health care
33 practitioner who does not have a beneficial interest in the health care entity; or

1 (ii) The health care practitioner or other member of that single
2 specialty group practice referring a patient to the facility, service, or entity personally
3 performs or supervises the health care service or procedure;

4 (8) A health care practitioner with a beneficial interest in, or
5 compensation arrangement with, a hospital or related institution as defined in §
6 19–301 of the Health – General Article or a facility, service, or other entity that is
7 owned or controlled by a hospital or related institution or under common ownership or
8 control with a hospital or related institution if:

9 (i) The beneficial interest was held or the compensation
10 arrangement was in existence on January 1, 1993; and

11 (ii) Thereafter the beneficial interest or compensation
12 arrangement of the health care practitioner does not increase;

13 (9) A health care practitioner when treating an enrollee of a
14 provider–sponsored organization as defined in § 19–7A–01 of the Health – General
15 Article if the health care practitioner is referring enrollees to an affiliated health care
16 provider of the provider–sponsored organization;

17 (10) A health care practitioner who refers a patient to a dialysis facility,
18 if the patient has been diagnosed with end stage renal disease as defined in the
19 Medicare regulations pursuant to the Social Security Act; or

20 (11) A health care practitioner who refers a patient to a hospital in
21 which the health care practitioner has a beneficial interest if:

22 (i) The health care practitioner is authorized to perform
23 services at the hospital; and

24 (ii) The ownership or investment interest is in the hospital itself
25 and not solely in a subdivision of the hospital.

26 (e) A health care practitioner exempted from the provisions of this section in
27 accordance with subsection (d) shall be subject to the disclosure provisions of § 1–303
28 of this subtitle.

29 1–303.

30 (a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section and Title 12 of this
31 article, a health care practitioner making a lawful referral shall disclose the existence
32 of the beneficial interest in accordance with provisions of this section.

33 (b) Prior to referring a patient to a health care entity in which the
34 practitioner, the practitioner’s immediate family, or the practitioner in combination

1 with the practitioner's immediate family owns a beneficial interest, the health care
2 practitioner shall:

3 (1) Except if an oral referral is made by telephone, provide the patient
4 with a written statement that:

5 (i) Discloses the existence of the ownership of the beneficial
6 interest or compensation arrangement;

7 (ii) States that the patient may choose to obtain the health care
8 service from another health care entity; and

9 (iii) Requires the patient to acknowledge in writing receipt of the
10 statement;

11 (2) Except if an oral referral is made by telephone, insert in the
12 medical record of the patient a copy of the written acknowledgement;

13 (3) Place on permanent display a written notice that is in a typeface
14 that is large enough to be easily legible to the average person from a distance of 8 feet
15 and that is in a location that is plainly visible to the patients of the health care
16 practitioner disclosing all of the health care entities:

17 (i) In which the practitioner, the practitioner's immediate
18 family, or the practitioner in combination with the practitioner's immediate family
19 owns a beneficial interest; and

20 (ii) To which the practitioner refers patients; and

21 (4) Documents in the medical record of the patient that:

22 (i) A valid medical need exists for the referral; and

23 (ii) The practitioner has disclosed the existence of the beneficial
24 interest to the patient.

25 (c) The provisions of this section do not apply to:

26 (1) A health care practitioner when treating a member of a health
27 maintenance organization as defined in § 19-701 of the Health – General Article and
28 the health care practitioner does not have a beneficial interest in the health care
29 entity; or

30 (2) A health care practitioner who refers a patient:

31 (i) To another health care practitioner in the same group
32 practice as the referring health care practitioner;

1 (ii) For in-office ancillary services, **EXCEPT IN-OFFICE**
2 **ANCILLARY SERVICES AS DEFINED UNDER § 1-301(K)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE; or**

3 (iii) For health care services provided through or by a health
4 care entity owned or controlled by a hospital.

5 (d) A health care practitioner who fails to comply with any provision of this
6 section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding
7 \$5,000.

8 **SUBTITLE 6. ACCREDITATION OF BUSINESS ENTITIES THAT FURNISH**
9 **MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SERVICES, COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN**
10 **SERVICES, AND RADIATION THERAPY SERVICES.**

11 **1-601.**

12 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "HEALTH CARE ENTITY" HAS THE MEANING
13 STATED IN § 1-301(G) OF THIS TITLE.

14 (B) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (D) OF
15 THIS SECTION, A HEALTH CARE ENTITY THAT FURNISHES MAGNETIC
16 RESONANCE IMAGING SERVICES, COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN SERVICES, OR
17 RADIATION THERAPY SERVICES SHALL BE ACCREDITED TO PROVIDE THE
18 SERVICES BY THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY, THE AMERICAN
19 COLLEGE OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY, THE INTERSOCIETAL ACCREDITATION
20 COMMISSION, OR ANOTHER NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ACCREDITATION
21 ORGANIZATION, AS APPROPRIATE, WHOSE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS HAVE
22 BEEN REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED ADEQUATE BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR
23 MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SERVICES, COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN
24 SERVICES, OR RADIATION THERAPY SERVICES.

25 (C) (1) ANY HEALTH CARE ENTITY THAT BEGINS FURNISHING
26 MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SERVICES, COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN
27 SERVICES, OR RADIATION THERAPY SERVICES AFTER **JULY 1, 2010**, SHALL FILE
28 AN APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION WITH ONE OF THE APPROPRIATE
29 ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION
30 BY **JANUARY 1, 2012**, OR WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF THE DATE ON WHICH THE
31 HEALTH CARE ENTITY BEGINS FURNISHING THE SERVICES, WHICHEVER PERIOD
32 EXPIRES LATER.

33 (2) ANY HEALTH CARE ENTITY THAT FURNISHED MAGNETIC
34 RESONANCE IMAGING SERVICES, COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN SERVICES, OR
35 RADIATION THERAPY SERVICES ON OR BEFORE **JULY 1, 2010**, THAT IS NOT

1 ACCREDITED TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES BY ONE OF THE ACCREDITING
2 ORGANIZATIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL FILE
3 AN APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES BY
4 JANUARY 1, 2012.

5 (D) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, A
6 HEALTH CARE ENTITY THAT FURNISHES MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING
7 SERVICES, COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN SERVICES, OR RADIATION THERAPY
8 SERVICES SHALL BE DEEMED PROVISIONALLY ACCREDITED UNDER THIS
9 SECTION UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2012, OR FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS DATING
10 FROM THE DATE ON WHICH THE HEALTH CARE ENTITY BEGAN PROVIDING
11 SERVICES, WHICHEVER PERIOD EXPIRES LATER.

12 (2) A HEALTH CARE ENTITY THAT HAS FILED AN APPLICATION
13 FOR ACCREDITATION AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION
14 AND HAS NOT BEEN REFUSED ACCREDITATION OR WITHDRAWN ITS
15 APPLICATION SHALL BE DEEMED PROVISIONALLY ACCREDITED FOR AN
16 ADDITIONAL 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING ON THE DATE OF THE FILING OF
17 THE APPLICATION.

18 (E) (1) AFTER A HEALTH CARE ENTITY BECOMES ACCREDITED AS
19 PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE ENTITY SHALL AT ALL
20 TIMES MAINTAIN THE ACCREDITATION AND CONFORM THE MANNER IN WHICH
21 IT FURNISHES THE SERVICES TO THE STANDARDS SET BY THE APPROPRIATE
22 ACCREDITING BODY.

23 (2) EVIDENCE OF THE ACCREDITATION SHALL BE MAINTAINED AT
24 EVERY LOCATION IN WHICH ANY MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING SERVICES,
25 COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY SCAN SERVICES, AND RADIATION THERAPY SERVICES
26 ARE FURNISHED AND SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION ON
27 REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 July 1, 2010.