

HOUSE BILL 435

C3

0lr2219

By: **Delegates Kach and Jones**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2010

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance – Reimbursement of Physicians – Services Outside of Office**
3 **Hours, by Telephone, or Online**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring health insurance carriers to reimburse physicians a
5 bonus payment for services provided in the office at certain times; requiring
6 health insurance carriers to reimburse physicians a separate payment for an
7 evaluation and management service delivered in a certain manner under
8 certain circumstances; defining a certain term; and generally relating to
9 reimbursement of physicians by health insurance carriers.

10 BY adding to
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 19–706(cccc)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2009 Replacement Volume)

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Insurance
17 Section 15–134
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Health – General**

23 19–706.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(CCCC) THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-134 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE
APPLY TO HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

Article – Insurance

15-134.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “CARRIER” MEANS:

(1) AN INSURER;

(2) A NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN;

(3) A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION;

(4) A DENTAL PLAN ORGANIZATION; OR

(5) ANY OTHER PERSON THAT PROVIDES HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS
SUBJECT TO REGULATION BY THE STATE.

(B) EACH CARRIER SHALL REIMBURSE PHYSICIANS:

(1) A BONUS PAYMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE OFFICE:

(I) AT TIMES OTHER THAN REGULARLY SCHEDULED OFFICE
HOURS; OR

(II) ON DAYS WHEN THE OFFICE IS NORMALLY CLOSED; AND

(2) A SEPARATE PAYMENT FOR AN EVALUATION AND
MANAGEMENT SERVICE DELIVERED BY TELEPHONE OR ONLINE IF THE
COMMUNICATION:

(I) IS NOT PART OF AN IN-PERSON VISIT THAT TOOK PLACE
WITHIN 48 HOURS BEFORE THE COMMUNICATION; OR

(II) DOES NOT LEAD TO AN IN-PERSON VISIT THAT TAKES
PLACE WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER THE COMMUNICATION.

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