

HOUSE BILL 444

C3

11r1258
CF 11r1816

By: **Delegate Nathan-Pulliam**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2011

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance – Provider Panels – Notice of Receipt of Application**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain health insurance carriers that receive a complete
4 application from a health care provider that seeks to participate on a provider
5 panel of a carrier to notify the health care provider that the application is
6 complete; requiring notice to be given to a health care provider at a certain
7 address and within a certain period of time; clarifying certain language; and
8 generally relating to participation of health care providers on provider panels of
9 health insurance carriers.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Insurance
12 Section 15–112(a)(1), (4), (9), and (10)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Insurance
17 Section 15–112(d)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Insurance**

23 15–112.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) (i) “Carrier” means:
2 1. an insurer;
3 2. a nonprofit health service plan;
4 3. a health maintenance organization;
5 4. a dental plan organization; or
6 5. any other person that provides health benefit plans
7 subject to regulation by the State.

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

10 (9) “Provider” means a health care practitioner or group of health care
11 practitioners licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by law to provide health care
12 services.

13 (10) (i) “Provider panel” means the providers that contract either
14 directly or through a subcontracting entity with a carrier to provide health care
15 services to the carrier’s enrollees under the carrier’s health benefit plan.

16 (ii) “Provider panel” does not include an arrangement in which
17 any provider may participate solely by contracting with the carrier to provide health
18 care services at a discounted fee-for-service rate.

19 (d) (1) A provider that seeks to participate on a provider panel of a carrier
20 shall submit an application to the carrier.

21 (2) (i) Subject to paragraph (3) of this subsection, the carrier, after
22 reviewing the application, shall accept or reject the provider for participation on the
23 carrier’s provider panel.

24 (ii) If the carrier rejects the provider for participation on the
25 carrier’s provider panel, the carrier shall send to the provider at the address listed in
26 the application written notice of the rejection.

27 (3) (i) [Except as provided in] **SUBJECT TO** paragraph (4) of this
28 subsection, within 30 days after the date a carrier receives a completed application,
29 the carrier shall send to the provider at the address listed in the application written
30 notice of:

31 1. the carrier’s intent to continue to process the
32 provider’s application to obtain necessary credentialing information; or

1 (5) A carrier may charge a reasonable fee for an application submitted
2 to the carrier under this section.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2011.