

HB0709/273927/1

BY: Health and Government Operations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 709

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, after “**Program**” insert “– **Workgroup**”; strike beginning with “establishing” in line 4 down through “Exchange” in line 7 and substitute “requiring the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to convene a workgroup to study and make recommendations relating to the establishment of a Small Business and Nonprofit Health Insurance Subsidies Program to provide subsidies to small businesses and nonprofit employers and their employees for the purchase of health benefit plans”; strike in their entirety lines 9 through 18, inclusive; and in line 20, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 7, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 21 on page 1 through line 6 on page 7, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, after line 20, insert:

“(a) The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange shall convene a workgroup to study and make recommendations relating to the establishment of a Small Business and Nonprofit Health Insurance Subsidies Program to provide subsidies to small businesses and nonprofit employers and their employees for the purchase of health benefit plans.

(b) The Exchange shall invite the following persons to participate in the workgroup convened under subsection (a) of this section:

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(1) individuals from the small business and nonprofit community, including owners, employers, and employees;

(2) health insurance carrier representatives;

(3) licensed health insurance producers;

(4) representatives of business, nonprofit, consumer advocacy, and other organizations; and

(5) any other person who expresses interest in participating in the workgroup.

(c) The workgroup convened under subsection (a) of this section shall study and make findings and recommendations regarding:

(1) the health insurance coverage needs of small employers, nonprofit employers, and their employees;

(2) objectives and target metrics for the Program;

(3) the optimal scope and design features of a Small Business and Nonprofit Health Insurance Subsidies Program, including:

(i) whether subsidies under the Program should be available for the purchase of qualified health plans offered to small employers on the Exchange and the purchase of health benefit plans offered to small employers outside the Exchange;

(ii) subsidy eligibility and payment parameters for the Program;

(iii) the administrative structure and infrastructure investments required for implementation of the Program, including any requirements for the

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Exchange, health insurance carriers, and any other entities involved in the implementation of the Program; and

(iv) the duration of the Program;

(4) the cost to administer the Program, including the cost to provide subsidies and operational costs; and

(5) the sources and levels of funding needed to support the Program.

(d) On or before October 1, 2022, the Exchange shall submit a report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee that includes the findings and recommendations of the workgroup required under this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that, beginning in fiscal year 2024 and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of funding to establish and operate a Small Business and Nonprofit Health Insurance Subsidies Program with a design as recommended by the workgroup under Section 1 of this Act.”.

On page 7, in line 7, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”; in line 8, strike “October” and substitute “June”; in the same line, strike “It” and substitute “Section 1 of this Act”; in the same line, strike “7 years” and substitute “1 year and 1 month”; and in lines 8 and 9, strike “September 30, 2029,” and substitute “June 30, 2023, Section 1 of”.