

HOUSE BILL 1351

J5

(5lr3352)

ENROLLED BILL

— Health and Government Operations/Finance —

Introduced by ~~Delegate Christ~~ Delegates Ghrist, Alston, Bagnall, Bhandari, Chisholm, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kerr, Kipke, Lopez, Martinez, M. Morgan, Pena-Melnyk, Reilly, Rosenberg, Ross, Szeliga, Taveras, White Holland, Woods, and Woorman

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance – Provider Panels – Credentialing for Behavioral Health Care**
3 **Professionals**

4 FOR the purpose of *altering the providers of certain community-based health services that*
5 *a carrier is prohibited from rejecting for participation on the carrier's provider panel;*
6 altering the period of time in which certain carriers are required to accept or deny
7 certain social workers, counselors, ~~therapists,~~ and psychology associates for
8 participation on the carrier's provider panel; and generally relating to and the
9 credentialing of behavioral health care professionals for health insurance provider
10 panels.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Article – Insurance
 2 Section 15–112(g)
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland
 4 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Insurance**

8 15–112.

9 (g) (1) A provider that seeks to participate on a provider panel of a carrier shall
 10 submit an application to the carrier.

11 (2) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph and paragraph (3)
 12 of this subsection, the carrier, after reviewing the application, shall accept or reject the
 13 provider for participation on the carrier’s provider panel.

14 (ii) A carrier may not reject a provider who provides
 15 community–based health services for a program accredited under COMAR 10.63.02 for
 16 participation on the carrier’s provider panel because the provider practices within the scope
 17 of the provider’s license and is:

18 1. a ~~licensed graduate social worker or a~~ licensed master
 19 social worker, as ~~those terms are~~ defined in § 19–101 of the Health Occupations Article;

20 2. a licensed graduate alcohol and drug counselor, a licensed
 21 graduate marriage and family therapist, a licensed graduate professional art therapist, or
 22 a licensed graduate professional counselor, as those terms are defined in § 17–101 of the
 23 Health Occupations Article; or

24 3. a registered psychology associate, as defined in § 18–101
 25 of the Health Occupations Article.

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

29 (3) (i) ~~{Subject} EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (IV) OF~~
 30 ~~THIS PARAGRAPH AND SUBJECT~~ to paragraph (4) of this subsection, within 30 days after
 31 the date a carrier receives a completed application, the carrier shall send to the provider at
 32 the address listed in the application written notice of:

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

1 3. If a carrier accepts applications through the online
2 credentialing system, the notice from the online credentialing system to the provider that
3 the carrier has received the provider’s application shall be considered notice that the
4 application is complete.

5 4. This subparagraph does not apply to a carrier that
6 arranges a dental provider panel until the Commissioner certifies that the online
7 credentialing system is capable of accepting the uniform credentialing form designated by
8 the Commissioner for dental provider panels.

9 (ii) 1. A carrier that receives an incomplete application shall
10 return the application to the provider at the address listed in the application within 10 days
11 after the date the application is received.

12 2. The carrier shall indicate to the provider what information
13 is needed to make the application complete.

14 3. The provider may return the completed application to the
15 carrier.

16 4. After the carrier receives the completed application, the
17 carrier is subject to the time periods established in paragraph (3) of this subsection.

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

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

_____ Governor.

_____ Speaker of the House of Delegates.

_____ President of the Senate.