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TESTIMONY OF THE MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

JANUARY 15, 2020

SENATE BILL 99 – HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT CARDS, PRESCRIPTION BENEFIT CARDS, AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY - IDENTIFICATION OF REGULATORY AGENCY

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments regarding Senate Bill 99. Senate Bill 99 requires insurers, nonprofit health service plans, health maintenance organizations, and managed care organizations to indicate on a health insurance benefit card or a prescription benefit card which State agency regulates the policy, either the Maryland Insurance Administration or the Maryland Department of Health.

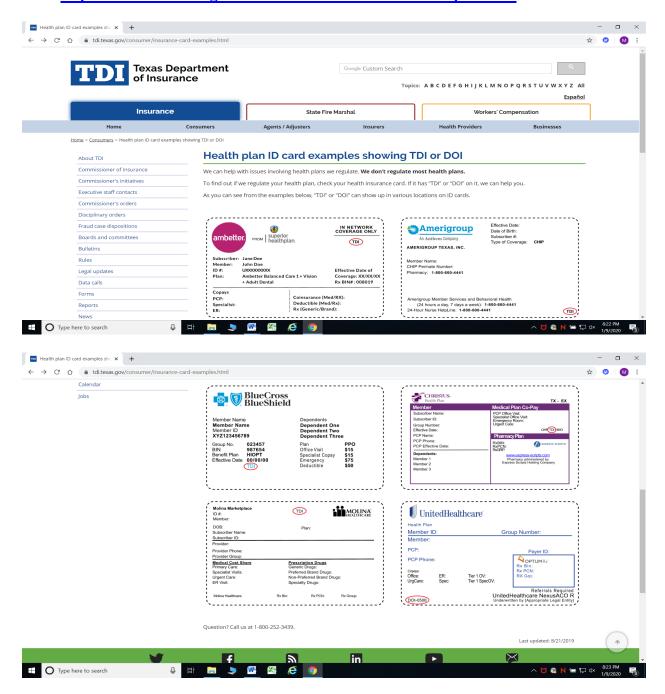
Senate Bill 99 will address the concerns the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) has repeatedly heard from providers and pharmacies on behalf of their patients. Providers have brought to the MIA's attention that they have no guidance as to whether their patients are covered under plans that are regulated by the MIA or by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). Typically a provider only has access to the benefit card which currently provides no identifying markings to give any indication of where that provider should go to file a complaint or to seek additional information. Senate Bill 99 will correct this problem and will put providers and consumers on the correct path to the appropriate regulator when questions or concerns arise.

A number of states currently require similar information on insurance cards. For example, Colorado requires "CO-DOI" on insurance cards for plans that are regulated by the Colorado Department of Insurance. Texas, another state with a similar statute, currently requires "TDI" or "DOI" on insurance cards issued in the state that are subject to the Texas Department of Insurance regulation. Please see the screenshot below which helps consumers identify where on the insurance card the appropriate regulator information is.

The Maryland Insurance Administration supports Senate Bill 99 as amended and urges the Committee to give Senate Bill 99 a favorable report.

Screenshot from Texas Department of Insurance Website

Link: https://www.tdi.texas.gov/consumer/insurance-card-examples.html



BY: Maryland Insurance Administration

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 99

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, on Line 19, strike "6" and insert "3"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, on Line 12, strike "MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION" and replace with "MIA"

On page 3, on Line 14, strike "MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH" and replace with "MDH"

On page 3, on Line 29, strike "MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION" and replace with "MIA"

On page 4, on Line 2, strike "MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH" and replace with "MDH"

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 4, on Line 9, strike "take effect" and insert "apply to all policies or contracts issued delivered, or renewed in the State on or after January 1, 2021."