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Date: February 21, 2024

Bill # / Title: SB 694 - Maryland Department of Health – Health Commissions and Maryland Insurance Administration – Study

Committee: Senate Finance Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) appreciates the opportunity to share its support of Senate Bill 694.

Senate Bill 694 requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to contract with an independent consultant to analyze the duties of the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), the MIA, and the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (MCHRC) to identify potential overlap between agencies; identify whether any of the duties may be more appropriate for MDH or another agency; identify whether the agencies under study and their functions can be streamlined to improve effectiveness and efficiency; examine how the duties of the studied agencies align with the Maryland Total Cost of Care Model and the Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) model; and recommend any changes in the agencies administrative structure. The independent consultant is required to seek input from the agencies in completing the study, and report the results by January 1, 2026.

The MIA, HSCRC, MHCC, and MCHRC each serve an important role in supporting Maryland consumers in accessing and utilizing health care. The MIA values its collaborative partnership with these entities and supports efforts to analyze and streamline services to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in health care regulation in the State. Our agency looks forward to working with the consultant tasked with undertaking this study, and is confident that the results of this independent analysis will lead to a stronger, more transparent healthcare system for Marylanders.

For these reasons, the MIA urges a favorable committee report on Senate Bill 694 and thanks the Committee for the opportunity to share its support.