

HOUSE BILL 173

Unofficial Copy
C3

1998 Regular Session
8lr0268
CF 8lr1548

By: **Delegates Frank, Barve, Bonsack, Boston, Donoghue, Doory, Exum,
Finifter, Goldwater, Hecht, Kach, Krysiak, Love, Montague, Morhaim,
O'Donnell, Perry, Snodgrass, Stocksdales, Stull, and Stup**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 1998
Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted with floor amendments
Read second time: March 27, 1998

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maintenance Drug Prescriptions - Supply Quantity - Repeal of Termination**
3 **Date and Alteration of Application**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing a certain termination date for and altering the
5 application of a provision of law that requires certain health insurers, nonprofit
6 health service plans, and health maintenance organizations to allow an insured
7 or enrollee to receive a certain supply quantity of a maintenance drug in a single
8 dispensing under certain circumstances; and altering the quantity of a certain
9 maintenance drug that may be supplied in a single dispensing of a prescription.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Insurance
12 Section 15-824
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1997 Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Chapter 232 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1997
17 Section 3

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

1

Article - Insurance

2 15-824.

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

4 (2) "Authorized prescriber" has the meaning stated in § 12-101 of the
5 Health Occupations Article.6 (3) "Maintenance drug" means a drug anticipated to be required for 6
7 months or more to treat a chronic condition.

8 (b) This section applies to:

9 (1) insurers and nonprofit health service plans that provide coverage for
10 drugs under health insurance policies or contracts that are delivered or issued for
11 delivery in the State to employers or individuals on a group or individual basis; AND12 (2) health maintenance organizations that provide coverage for drugs
13 under contracts that are delivered or issued for delivery in the State to employers or
14 individuals on a group or individual basis; ~~and~~15 ~~(3) a health insurance contract or policy THAT provides coverage for~~
16 ~~drugs that is issued to a small employer under Subtitle 12 of this title.~~17 (c) This section does not apply to an insured or enrollee who is a resident of a
18 nursing home.19 (d) (1) An entity subject to this section shall allow an insured or enrollee, if
20 authorized by an authorized prescriber, to receive up to a ~~90-day~~ 100-DAY supply of a
21 maintenance drug in a single dispensing of the prescription.22 (2) THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT
23 APPLY TO THE FIRST PRESCRIPTION OR CHANGE IN A PRESCRIPTION FOR A
24 MAINTENANCE DRUG THAT THE AUTHORIZED PRESCRIBER PRESCRIBES FOR THE
25 INSURED OR ENROLLEE.26 (e) Whenever an entity subject to this section increases the co-payment for a
27 single dispensing of a prescription in a supply in excess of 30 days, the entity shall
28 also proportionately increase the dispensing fee to the pharmacist for the
29 prescription.

30

Chapter 232 of the Acts of 199731 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 October 1, 1997. [It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
33 September 30, 1998, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
34 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 1998.