

HOUSE BILL 1454

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By: **Delegates Nathan-Pulliam, Benson, Braveboy, Burns, Costa, Jones, Mizeur, Oaks, Pena-Melnyk, Stukes, Tarrant, and V. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 14, 2008

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Hospitals – Managed Care**
3 **Organizations – Access and Health Care Disparities Elimination**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
5 require certain hospitals and their affiliated specialty care networks to contract
6 with certain managed care organizations to provide hospital and specialty care
7 to Maryland Medical Assistance Program recipients under certain
8 circumstances; requiring a managed care organization to meet certain criteria
9 to qualify under this Act; and generally relating to hospitals and managed care
10 organizations under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Health – General

13 Section 15–146

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, Health care disparities exist in access to hospital and specialty
18 care for minority populations; and

19 WHEREAS, Managed care organizations serve minority populations under the
20 Maryland Medical Assistance Program; and

21 WHEREAS, In an effort to reduce health care disparities, academic hospitals
22 and their affiliated specialty care networks have a responsibility to contract with
23 managed care organizations that serve minority populations under the Maryland
24 Medical Assistance Program; now, therefore,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article - Health - General**

4 **15-146.**

5 (A) IF AN ACADEMIC HOSPITAL IS RECEIVING STATE FUNDS IN ANY
6 FORM, INCLUDING BUILDING GRANTS OR TAX INCENTIVES, THE DEPARTMENT
7 SHALL REQUIRE THE ACADEMIC HOSPITAL AND ITS AFFILIATED SPECIALTY
8 CARE NETWORKS, ON REQUEST OF A MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION, TO
9 CONTRACT WITH THE MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION TO PROVIDE HOSPITAL
10 AND SPECIALTY CARE TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS IF THE
11 MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION QUALIFIES UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
12 SECTION.

13 (B) TO QUALIFY UNDER THIS SECTION, A MANAGED CARE
14 ORGANIZATION SHALL:

15 (1) HAVE A MEMBERSHIP THAT IS AT LEAST 65% AFRICAN
16 AMERICAN;

17 (2) AGREE TO PAY A MINIMUM OF THE CURRENT MEDICAL
18 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FEE FOR SERVICE RATES; AND

19 (3) AGREE TO PAY THE APPROPRIATE HEALTH SERVICES COST
20 REVIEW COMMISSION RATES.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2008.