

SENATE BILL 744

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8lr2825
CF 8lr2827

By: **Senator Pugh**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force on Health Care Access and Reimbursement – Additional Duties**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the charge to the Task Force on Health Care Access and
4 Reimbursement to develop certain recommendations; and generally relating to
5 the recommendations of the Task Force on Health Care Access and
6 Reimbursement.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Health – General
9 Section 19–710.3(f)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Health – General**

15 19–710.3.

16 (f) The Task Force shall develop recommendations regarding:

17 (1) Specific options that are available, given limitations of the federal
18 ERISA law, to change physician and other health care provider reimbursements, if
19 needed;

20 (2) The sufficiency of present statutory formulas for the
21 reimbursement of noncontracting physicians and other health care providers by health
22 maintenance organizations;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) Whether the Maryland Insurance Administration and the Attorney
2 General currently have sufficient authority to regulate rate setting and
3 market-related practices of health insurance carriers that may have the effect of
4 unreasonably reducing reimbursements;

5 (4) Whether there is a need to enhance the ability of physicians and
6 other health care providers to negotiate reimbursement rates with health insurance
7 carriers, without unduly impairing the ability of the carriers to appropriately manage
8 their provider networks;

9 (5) Whether there is a need to establish a rate-setting system for
10 physicians and other health care providers similar to the system established to set
11 hospital rates in Maryland;

12 (6) The advisability of the use of payment methods linked to quality of
13 care or outcomes; [and]

14 (7) The need to prohibit a health insurance carrier from requiring
15 health care providers who join a provider network of the carrier to also serve on a
16 provider network of a different carrier; **AND**

17 **(8) WHETHER THERE IS A NEED TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR**
18 **PHYSICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO BE AVAILABLE TO**
19 **PROVIDE CARE ON EVENINGS AND ON WEEKENDS.**

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