

## **CHAPTER 447**

**(Senate Bill 744)**

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

#### **Article – Health – General**

19–710.3.

(f) The Task Force shall develop recommendations regarding:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**(9) THE ABILITY OF PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS TO BE REIMBURSED FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PERFORMED WITHIN THEIR SCOPE OF PRACTICE.**

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

**Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2008.**