

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Joint Resolution 7 (Senator Conway, *et al.*)

Finance

Rules and Executive Nominations

Protection of the Federal Affordable Care Act

This joint resolution expresses the General Assembly's sharp disagreement with the repeal of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and urges the Governor of Maryland to join in urging the U.S. Congress to promptly protect provisions of the ACA that ensure all Marylanders have access to affordable health insurance coverage, free from discriminatory rates and policies.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The joint resolution does not directly affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Since passage of the ACA in 2010, Maryland has brought State health insurance laws into compliance with federal consumer protections, standardized the premium rate review and approval process, established the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE), expanded Medicaid, and repealed the Maryland Health Insurance Plan.

In January 2017, the Department of Legislative Services released a report, [*Assessing the Impact of Health Care Reform in Maryland*](#). The report noted that, based on review of available data, Maryland has observed a significant increase in health care coverage under the ACA through the expansion of Medicaid (291,000 individuals) and establishment of

MHBE (142,872 individuals) and a corresponding decrease in the uninsured rate by more than one-third. The report found that repeal or substantial amendment of the ACA could have a tremendous impact on Maryland, including the all-payer model contract that governs hospital rate setting, and it will require the General Assembly to consider significant financial and policy issues and then make decisions, such as whether to maintain and how to fund both the Medicaid expansion and MHBE.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None designated; however, HJ 9 (Delegate Moon, *et al.* – Rules and Executive Nominations) is essentially identical.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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