

Chapter 271

(House Bill 601)

AN ACT concerning

**Health Insurance – Provider Panels – ~~Registered Psychology Associates~~
Providers of Community-Based Health Services**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a carrier from rejecting a provider who provides community-based health services for an accredited program ~~solely~~ because the provider practices within the scope of the provider’s license and is a registered psychology associate; altering the reason for which a carrier is prohibited from rejecting a certain provider for participation on the carrier’s provider panel; making a stylistic change; and generally relating to health insurance and provider panels.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Insurance
Section 15–112(g)(1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Insurance
Section 15–112(g)(2)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – Insurance

15–112.

(g) (1) A provider that seeks to participate on a provider panel of a carrier shall submit an application to the carrier.

(2) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph and paragraph (3) of this subsection, the carrier, after reviewing the application, shall accept or reject the provider for participation on the carrier’s provider panel.

(ii) A carrier may not reject a provider who provides community-based health services for a program accredited under COMAR 10.63.02 for participation on the carrier’s provider panel ~~solely~~ because the provider **PRACTICES WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PROVIDER’S LICENSE AND** is:

1. a licensed graduate social worker or a licensed master social worker, as those terms are defined in § 19–101 of the Health Occupations Article; [or]

2. a licensed graduate alcohol and drug counselor, a licensed graduate marriage and family therapist, a licensed graduate professional art therapist, or a licensed graduate professional counselor, as those terms are defined in § 17–101 of the Health Occupations Article; **OR**

3. A REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATE, AS DEFINED IN § 18–101 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

(iii) If the carrier rejects the provider for participation on the carrier’s provider panel, the carrier shall send to the provider at the address listed in the application written notice of the rejection.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.