

# SENATE BILL 872

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EMERGENCY BILL

0lr2455  
CF HB 959

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By: Senators Feldman, Guzzone, Hester, Klausmeier, Lam, Lee, ~~and Rosapepe~~  
~~Rosapepe, Augustine, Beidle, Benson, Carter, Hayes, Hettleman, Kelley,~~  
~~and Washington~~ Washington, West, Young, Elfreth, Smith, and Kagan

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 7, 2020

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance – Consumer Protections**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Maryland Insurance Commissioner to enforce certain  
4 provisions of law under certain applicable powers; requiring the Commissioner to  
5 adopt certain regulations under certain circumstances that are consistent with  
6 certain federal regulations, rules, and guidance and that establish certain criteria,  
7 certain standards, a certain definition, a certain calculation, certain reporting,  
8 certain rebate requirements, certain limitations, and certain requirements;  
9 prohibiting certain carriers from excluding or limiting certain benefits or denying  
10 certain coverage because a certain health condition was present before or on a certain  
11 date; prohibiting certain carriers from establishing certain rules for eligibility based  
12 on certain health status–related factors; prohibiting certain carriers from requiring  
13 certain individuals to pay a certain premium or contribution on the basis of certain  
14 health status–related factors; authorizing certain carriers to determine certain  
15 premium rates based on certain factors under certain circumstances; requiring  
16 certain carriers that provide certain coverage of a child to continue to make certain  
17 coverage available until the child is a certain age; prohibiting certain carriers from  
18 establishing certain rules for eligibility for coverage of a certain child; requiring  
19 certain carriers to accept certain employers and individuals that apply for certain  
20 health benefit plans subject to certain provisions of law and except under certain  
21 circumstances; providing that certain carriers must provide certain coverage without  
22 imposing certain cost–sharing requirements for certain items, services,  
23 immunizations, preventive care, and screenings except under certain circumstances;

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 prohibiting certain carriers from establishing certain lifetime limits or annual limits  
2 on the dollar value of certain benefits except under certain circumstances;  
3 prohibiting certain carriers from applying certain waiting periods before certain  
4 coverage becomes effective for certain individuals; requiring certain carriers to allow  
5 certain insured individuals to designate certain primary care providers under certain  
6 circumstances; requiring certain carriers to treat certain actions by certain providers  
7 as care authorized by certain providers; prohibiting certain carriers from requiring  
8 authorization or referral by certain persons for an insured individual who seeks  
9 certain coverage; requiring certain providers to comply with certain policies and  
10 procedures; prohibiting certain carriers from requiring certain individuals from  
11 obtaining certain authorization for certain emergency services; requiring certain  
12 carriers to provide certain coverage and certain reimbursement for emergency  
13 services under certain circumstances; requiring certain carriers to compile and  
14 provide consumers a summary of benefits and coverage explanation that includes  
15 certain information; requiring the Commissioner to adopt certain regulations in  
16 consultation with the Maryland Health Benefits Exchange; requiring the  
17 Commissioner to review and update certain standards in a certain manner under  
18 certain circumstances; requiring certain carriers to provide a certain notice to certain  
19 insured individuals not later than a certain number of days before a certain date;  
20 requiring the Maryland Insurance Administration to levy a certain fine for a certain  
21 violation; requiring the Commissioner to adopt certain regulations; establishing  
22 certain medical loss ratios for certain markets; requiring certain carriers to comply  
23 with certain requirements for calculating certain medical loss ratios and related  
24 reporting and rebate requirements; requiring certain carriers to disclose certain  
25 information to certain individuals or employers under certain circumstances;  
26 authorizing certain carriers to offer certain catastrophic plans to certain individuals  
27 under certain circumstances; requiring the Exchange to adopt certain regulations  
28 under certain circumstances that are consistent with certain federal laws,  
29 regulations, rules, and guidance and that establish a process for issuing certain  
30 hardship exemptions and affordability exemptions; establishing certain  
31 requirements for certain catastrophic plans; requiring certain carriers to comply  
32 with certain annual limitations on cost-sharing for certain essential health benefits  
33 covered under certain health benefit plans except under certain circumstances;  
34 providing that certain plans must be considered to provide certain prescription drug  
35 benefits if the plan complies with certain provisions of federal law or certain  
36 regulations; prohibiting certain carriers from rescinding certain health benefit plan  
37 coverage unless certain requirements are met; prohibiting certain carriers from  
38 refusing, withholding from, or denying certain coverage to certain persons based on  
39 certain factors under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission on Civil  
40 Rights to enforce certain provisions of this Act; requiring the Administration, the  
41 Health Education and Advocacy Unit of the Office of the Attorney General, and the  
42 Exchange to monitor certain federal statutes and regulations for a certain purpose  
43 and submit a certain annual report to certain committees of the General Assembly  
44 on or before a certain date of certain years; providing certain legislative history and  
45 intent of the General Assembly; defining certain terms; providing for the application  
46 of this Act; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to health  
47 insurance and consumer protections.

1 BY repealing  
2 Article – Insurance  
3 Section 15–137.1  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

6 BY adding to  
7 Article – Insurance  
8 Section 15–1A–01 through 15–1A–22 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 1A.  
9 Consumer Protections”  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Insurance**

15 [15–137.1.

16 (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that it is in the public interest to  
17 ensure that the health care protections established by the federal Affordable Care Act  
18 continue to protect Maryland residents in light of continued threats to the federal  
19 Affordable Care Act.

20 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the following provisions of Title  
21 I, Subtitles A, C, and D of the Affordable Care Act apply to individual health insurance  
22 coverage and health insurance coverage offered in the small group and large group  
23 markets, as those terms are defined in the federal Public Health Service Act, issued or  
24 delivered in the State by an authorized insurer, nonprofit health service plan, or health  
25 maintenance organization:

26 (1) coverage of children up to the age of 26 years;

27 (2) preexisting condition exclusions;

28 (3) policy rescissions;

29 (4) bona fide wellness programs;

30 (5) lifetime limits;

31 (6) annual limits for essential benefits;

32 (7) waiting periods;

- 1 (8) designation of primary care providers;
- 2 (9) access to obstetrical and gynecological services;
- 3 (10) emergency services;
- 4 (11) summary of benefits and coverage explanation;
- 5 (12) minimum loss ratio requirements and premium rebates;
- 6 (13) disclosure of information;
- 7 (14) annual limitations on cost sharing;
- 8 (15) child-only plan offerings in the individual market;
- 9 (16) minimum benefit requirements for catastrophic plans;
- 10 (17) health insurance premium rates;
- 11 (18) coverage for individuals participating in approved clinical trials;
- 12 (19) contract requirements for stand-alone dental plans sold on the  
13 Maryland Health Benefit Exchange;
- 14 (20) guaranteed availability of coverage;
- 15 (21) prescription drug benefit requirements; and
- 16 (22) preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management.

17 (c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section do not apply to coverage for  
18 excepted benefits, as defined in 45 C.F.R. § 146.145.

19 (d) The Commissioner may enforce this section under any applicable provisions  
20 of this article.]

21 **SUBTITLE 1A. CONSUMER PROTECTIONS.**

22 **15-1A-01.**

23 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
24 INDICATED.

25 (B) "CARRIER" MEANS:

1           **(1) AN INSURER THAT HOLDS A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY IN THE**  
2 **STATE AND PROVIDES HEALTH INSURANCE IN THE STATE;**

3           **(2) A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION THAT IS LICENSED TO**  
4 **OPERATE IN THE STATE;**

5           **(3) A NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN THAT IS LICENSED TO**  
6 **OPERATE IN THE STATE; OR**

7           **(4) ANY OTHER PERSON OR ORGANIZATION THAT PROVIDES HEALTH**  
8 **BENEFIT PLANS SUBJECT TO STATE INSURANCE REGULATION.**

9           **(C) “CHILD” MEANS:**

10           **(1) A NATURAL CHILD, A STEPCHILD, A FOSTER CHILD, OR AN**  
11 **ADOPTED CHILD OF THE INSURED; OR**

12           **(2) A CHILD PLACED WITH THE INSURED FOR LEGAL ADOPTION.**

13           **(D) “ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFIT” MEANS A HEALTH BENEFIT THAT:**

14           **(1) MEETS THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER § 1302(B) OF THE**  
15 **AFFORDABLE CARE ACT; OR**

16           **(2) IF THE COMMISSIONER ADOPTS REGULATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN**  
17 **§ 15-1A-04 OF THIS SUBTITLE, MEETS THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE**  
18 **ADOPTED REGULATIONS.**

19           **(E) “GRANDFATHERED PLAN” MEANS A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN THAT:**

20           **(1) MEETS THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER 45 C.F.R. § 147.140**  
21 **AND ANY CORRESPONDING FEDERAL RULES AND GUIDANCE AS THOSE PROVISIONS**  
22 **WERE IN EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2019; OR**

23           **(2) IF THE COMMISSIONER ADOPTS REGULATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN**  
24 **§ 15-1A-03 OF THE SUBTITLE, MEETS THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE**  
25 **ADOPTED REGULATIONS.**

26           **(F) “GROUP PLAN” MEANS A SMALL GROUP PLAN OR A LARGE GROUP PLAN.**

27           **(G) “HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL PLAN, A SMALL GROUP**  
28 **PLAN, OR A LARGE GROUP PLAN.**

1           **(H) “INDIVIDUAL PLAN” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN AS**  
2 **DEFINED IN § 15–1301(O) OF THIS TITLE.**

3           **(I) “INSURED INDIVIDUAL” MEANS:**

4                 **(1) AN INSURED, AN ENROLLEE, A SUBSCRIBER, A PARTICIPANT, A**  
5 **MEMBER, OR A BENEFICIARY OF A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN; OR**

6                 **(2) ANY COVERED DEPENDENT OF A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.**

7           **(J) “LARGE GROUP PLAN” MEANS A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN AS DEFINED IN**  
8 **§ 15–1401 OF THIS TITLE.**

9           **(K) “SMALL GROUP PLAN” MEANS A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN AS DEFINED IN**  
10 **§ 15–1201 OF THIS TITLE.**

11 **15–1A–02.**

12           **(A) THE COMMISSIONER MAY ENFORCE:**

13                 **(1) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

14                 **(2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW, THE**  
15 **FOLLOWING PROVISIONS OF TITLE 1, SUBTITLES A, C, AND D OF THE AFFORDABLE**  
16 **CARE ACT AS THEY APPLY TO INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND**  
17 **HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OFFERED IN THE SMALL GROUP AND LARGE GROUP**  
18 **MARKETS AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN THE FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH**  
19 **SERVICE ACT, ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THE STATE BY AN AUTHORIZED INSURER,**  
20 **NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN, OR HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION:**

21                         **(I) COVERAGE OF CHILDREN UP TO THE AGE OF 26 YEARS;**

22                         **(II) PREEXISTING CONDITION EXCLUSIONS;**

23                         **(III) POLICY RESCISSIONS;**

24                         **(IV) BONA FIDE WELLNESS PROGRAMS;**

25                         **(V) LIFETIME LIMITS;**

26                         **(VI) ANNUAL LIMITS FOR ESSENTIAL BENEFITS;**

27                         **(VII) WAITING PERIODS;**

28                         **(VIII) DESIGNATION OF PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS;**

- 1                   **(IX) ACCESS TO OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SERVICES;**  
2                   **(X) EMERGENCY SERVICES;**  
3                   **(XI) SUMMARY OF BENEFITS AND COVERAGE EXPLANATION;**  
4                   **(XII) MINIMUM LOSS RATIO REQUIREMENTS AND PREMIUM**  
5 **REBATES;**  
6                   **(XIII) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION;**  
7                   **(XIV) ANNUAL LIMITATIONS ON COST-SHARING;**  
8                   **(XV) CHILD-ONLY PLAN OFFERINGS IN THE INDIVIDUAL**  
9 **MARKET;**  
10                  **(XVI) MINIMUM BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS FOR CATASTROPHIC**  
11 **PLANS;**  
12                  **(XVII) HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM RATES;**  
13                  **(XVIII) COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING IN**  
14 **APPROVED CLINICAL TRIALS;**  
15                  **(XIX) CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS FOR STAND-ALONE DENTAL**  
16 **PLANS SOLD ON THE MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE;**  
17                  **(XX) GUARANTEED AVAILABILITY OF COVERAGE;**  
18                  **(XXI) PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS; AND**  
19                  **(XXII) PREVENTIVE AND WELLNESS SERVICES AND CHRONIC**  
20 **DISEASE MANAGEMENT.**

21           **(B) THE COMMISSIONER MAY ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS IDENTIFIED**  
22 **UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION UNDER ANY APPLICABLE POWERS**  
23 **GRANTED TO THE COMMISSIONER UNDER THIS ARTICLE.**

24 **15-1A-03.**

25           **(A) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, THE**  
26 **COMMISSIONER SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT:**

1           **(1) ESTABLISH CRITERIA THAT A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN MUST MEET**  
2 **TO BE CONSIDERED A GRANDFATHERED PLAN; AND**

3           **(2) ARE CONSISTENT WITH 45 C.F.R. § 147.140 AND ANY**  
4 **CORRESPONDING FEDERAL RULES AND GUIDANCE AS THOSE PROVISIONS WERE IN**  
5 **EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2019.**

6           **(B) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBTITLE AND SUBJECT TO**  
7 **SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES TO ANY HEALTH**  
8 **BENEFIT PLAN THAT IS OFFERED BY A CARRIER IN THE STATE WITHIN THE SCOPE**  
9 **OF:**

10           **(1) SUBTITLE 12 OF THIS TITLE;**

11           **(2) SUBTITLE 13 OF THIS TITLE; OR**

12           **(3) SUBTITLE 14 OF THIS TITLE.**

13           **(C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
14 **THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE DO NOT APPLY TO A GRANDFATHERED PLAN.**

15           **(2) (I) THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS APPLY TO ALL**  
16 **GRANDFATHERED PLANS:**

17                   **1. THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-1A-08 OF THIS SUBTITLE**  
18 **RELATED TO HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS THAT PROVIDE DEPENDENT COVERAGE OF A**  
19 **CHILD;**

20                   **2. THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-1A-11 OF THIS SUBTITLE**  
21 **RELATED TO THE PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHING LIFETIME LIMITS ON THE DOLLAR**  
22 **VALUE OF BENEFITS;**

23                   **3. THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-1A-12 OF THIS SUBTITLE**  
24 **RELATED TO WAITING PERIODS;**

25                   **4. THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-1A-15 OF THIS SUBTITLE**  
26 **RELATED TO SUMMARY OF BENEFITS AND COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS;**

27                   **5. THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-1A-16 OF THIS SUBTITLE**  
28 **RELATED TO MEDICAL LOSS RATIO AND CORRESPONDING REPORTING AND REBATE**  
29 **REQUIREMENTS; AND**

30                   **6. THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-1A-21 OF THIS SUBTITLE**  
31 **RELATED TO RESCISSION OF A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.**



1                   **(II) THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS APPLY TO ALL**  
2 **GRANDFATHERED PLANS EXCEPT GRANDFATHERED PLANS THAT ARE INDIVIDUAL**  
3 **PLANS:**

4                   **1. THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-1A-05 OF THIS SUBTITLE**  
5 **RELATED TO PREEXISTING CONDITION EXCLUSIONS; AND**

6                   **2. THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-1A-11 OF THIS SUBTITLE**  
7 **RELATED TO THE PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHING ANNUAL LIMITS ON THE DOLLAR**  
8 **VALUE OF BENEFITS.**

9 **15-1A-04.**

10                   **FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, THE**  
11 **COMMISSIONER SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT:**

12                   **(1) ESTABLISH CRITERIA THAT A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN MUST MEET**  
13 **TO BE CONSIDERED A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN THAT COVERS ESSENTIAL HEALTH**  
14 **BENEFITS; AND**

15                   **(2) ARE CONSISTENT WITH 45 C.F.R. PART 156 SUBPART B AND ANY**  
16 **CORRESPONDING FEDERAL RULES AND GUIDANCE AS THOSE PROVISIONS WERE IN**  
17 **EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2019.**

18 **15-1A-05.**

19                   **(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL GRANDFATHERED PLANS EXCEPT**  
20 **GRANDFATHERED PLANS THAT ARE INDIVIDUAL PLANS AND TO EVERY HEALTH**  
21 **BENEFIT PLAN THAT IS NOT A GRANDFATHERED PLAN.**

22                   **(B) A CARRIER MAY NOT:**

23                   **(1) EXCLUDE OR LIMIT BENEFITS BECAUSE A HEALTH CONDITION**  
24 **WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERAGE; OR**

25                   **(2) DENY COVERAGE BECAUSE A HEALTH CONDITION WAS PRESENT**  
26 **BEFORE OR ON THE DATE OF DENIAL.**

27                   **(C) THE PROHIBITION IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION APPLIES**  
28 **WHETHER OR NOT:**

29                   **(1) ANY MEDICAL ADVICE, DIAGNOSIS, CARE, OR TREATMENT WAS**  
30 **RECOMMENDED OR RECEIVED FOR THE CONDITION; OR**

1           **(2) THE HEALTH CONDITION WAS IDENTIFIED AS A RESULT OF:**

2                   **(I) A PRE-ENROLLMENT QUESTIONNAIRE OR PHYSICAL**  
3 **EXAMINATION GIVEN TO AN INDIVIDUAL; OR**

4                   **(II) A REVIEW OF RECORDS RELATING TO THE**  
5 **PRE-ENROLLMENT PERIOD.**

6 **15-1A-06.**

7           **(A) A CARRIER MAY NOT ESTABLISH RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY, INCLUDING**  
8 **CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY, FOR ENROLLMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL INTO A HEALTH**  
9 **BENEFIT PLAN BASED ON HEALTH STATUS-RELATED FACTORS, INCLUDING:**

10                   **(1) HEALTH CONDITION;**

11                   **(2) CLAIMS EXPERIENCE;**

12                   **(3) RECEIPT OF HEALTH CARE;**

13                   **(4) MEDICAL HISTORY;**

14                   **(5) GENETIC INFORMATION;**

15                   **(6) EVIDENCE OF INSURABILITY INCLUDING CONDITIONS ARISING**  
16 **OUT OF ACTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; OR**

17                   **(7) DISABILITY.**

18           **(B) A CARRIER MAY NOT REQUIRE AN INDIVIDUAL, AS A CONDITION OF**  
19 **ENROLLMENT OR CONTINUED ENROLLMENT IN A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, TO PAY A**  
20 **PREMIUM OR CONTRIBUTION THAT IS GREATER THAN THE PREMIUM OR**  
21 **CONTRIBUTION FOR A SIMILARLY SITUATED INDIVIDUAL ENROLLED IN THE HEALTH**  
22 **BENEFIT PLAN ON THE BASIS OF ANY HEALTH STATUS-RELATED FACTOR IN**  
23 **RELATION TO THE INDIVIDUAL OR TO AN INDIVIDUAL ENROLLED UNDER THE**  
24 **HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN AS A DEPENDENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL.**

25 **15-1A-07.**

26           **(A) (1) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO LIMIT THE AUTHORITY**  
27 **OF THE COMMISSIONER TO CONDUCT A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN PREMIUM RATE**  
28 **REVIEW UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 6 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

1           **(2) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A CARRIER OFFERING AN**  
2 **INDIVIDUAL PLAN AND, SUBJECT TO § 15–1205 OF THIS TITLE, A CARRIER OFFERING**  
3 **A SMALL GROUP PLAN.**

4           **(B) A CARRIER MAY DETERMINE A PREMIUM RATE BASED ON:**

5                   **(1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, AGE;**

6                   **(2) GEOGRAPHY BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CONTIGUOUS AREAS OF**  
7 **THE STATE:**

8                           **(I) THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA;**

9                           **(II) THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AREA;**

10                           **(III) WESTERN MARYLAND; AND**

11                           **(IV) EASTERN MARYLAND AND SOUTHERN MARYLAND;**

12                   **(3) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, WHETHER THE**  
13 **PLAN COVERS AN INDIVIDUAL OR A FAMILY; AND**

14                   **(4) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, TOBACCO USE.**

15           **(C) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “AGE” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL’S AGE AS OF**  
16 **THE DATE OF ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL OF A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.**

17                   **(2) FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, A**  
18 **PREMIUM RATE BASED ON AGE:**

19                           **(I) MAY NOT VARY BY MORE THAN A RATIO OF 3 TO 1 FOR**  
20 **ADULTS;**

21                           **(II) SHALL PROVIDE FOR 1–YEAR AGE BANDS FOR INDIVIDUALS**  
22 **AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD AND UNDER THE AGE OF 64 YEARS; AND**

23                           **(III) SHALL PROVIDE FOR A SINGLE AGE BAND FOR INDIVIDUALS**  
24 **AT LEAST 64 YEARS OLD.**

25                   **(3) FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS, A**  
26 **PREMIUM RATE BASED ON AGE SHALL:**

27                           **(I) BE ACTUARIALLY JUSTIFIED AND CONSISTENT WITH THE**  
28 **UNIFORM AGE RATING CURVE ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (4)**  
29 **OF THIS SUBSECTION;**

1                   **(II) PROVIDE FOR A SINGLE AGE BAND FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER**  
2 **THE AGE OF 15 YEARS; AND**

3                   **(III) PROVIDE FOR 1-YEAR AGE BANDS FOR INDIVIDUALS AT**  
4 **LEAST 15 YEARS OLD AND UNDER THE AGE OF 20 YEARS.**

5                   **(4) THE UNIFORM AGE RATING CURVE REQUIRED UNDER**  
6 **PARAGRAPH (3)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE ESTABLISHED BY THE**  
7 **COMMISSIONER IN THE INDIVIDUAL MARKET, SMALL GROUP MARKET, OR BOTH**  
8 **MARKETS.**

9                   **(D) (1) A RATING VARIATION FOR A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN THAT**  
10 **PROVIDES COVERAGE FOR A FAMILY SHALL BE APPLIED BASED ON THE PORTION OF**  
11 **THE PREMIUM ATTRIBUTABLE TO EACH FAMILY MEMBER COVERED.**

12                   **(2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A**  
13 **PREMIUM FOR A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN THAT PROVIDES COVERAGE FOR A FAMILY**  
14 **SHALL BE DETERMINED BY SUMMING THE PREMIUMS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL FAMILY**  
15 **MEMBER.**

16                   **(II) FOR A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN THAT PROVIDES FAMILY**  
17 **COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS, THE SUM SHALL**  
18 **INCLUDE NOT MORE THAN THE PREMIUMS FOR THE THREE OLDEST INDIVIDUALS**  
19 **UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS.**

20                   **(E) A PREMIUM RATE BASED ON TOBACCO USE MAY NOT VARY BY MORE**  
21 **THAN A RATIO OF 1.5 TO 1.**

22 **15-1A-08.**

23                   **(A) A CARRIER THAT OFFERS A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, INCLUDING A**  
24 **GRANDFATHERED PLAN, THAT PROVIDES FOR DEPENDENT COVERAGE OF A CHILD**  
25 **SHALL CONTINUE TO MAKE THE COVERAGE AVAILABLE FOR THE CHILD UNTIL THE**  
26 **CHILD IS 26 YEARS OLD.**

27                   **(B) A CARRIER MAY NOT ESTABLISH RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY, INCLUDING**  
28 **CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY, FOR COVERAGE OF A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 26 YEARS**  
29 **BASED ON ANY FACTOR OTHER THAN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHILD AND**  
30 **THE INSURED.**

31 **15-1A-09.**

1           **(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (B) THROUGH (D) OF THIS**  
2 **SECTION, A CARRIER SHALL ACCEPT EVERY EMPLOYER AND INDIVIDUAL IN THE**  
3 **STATE THAT APPLIES FOR A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING**  
4 **PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE:**

5           **(1) SUBTITLE 4 OF THIS TITLE;**

6           **(2) §§ 15-1206(c), 15-1208.1, 15-1208.2, 15-1209, AND 15-1210 OF**  
7 **THIS TITLE;**

8           **(3) §§ 15-1316 AND 15-1318 OF THIS TITLE; AND**

9           **(4) §§ 15-1406 AND 15-1406.1 OF THIS TITLE.**

10          **(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A**  
11 **CARRIER MAY RESTRICT ENROLLMENT TO OPEN OR SPECIAL ENROLLMENT**  
12 **PERIODS.**

13          **(2) A CARRIER THAT OFFERS A LARGE GROUP PLAN SHALL ALLOW AN**  
14 **EMPLOYER ELIGIBLE TO PURCHASE A LARGE GROUP PLAN TO PURCHASE A LARGE**  
15 **GROUP PLAN AT ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR.**

16          **(C) IF A CARRIER USES A NETWORK FOR A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN UNDER**  
17 **WHICH THE FINANCING AND DELIVERY OF MEDICAL CARE ARE PROVIDED, IN WHOLE**  
18 **OR IN PART, THROUGH A DEFINED SET OF PROVIDERS UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE**  
19 **CARRIER, THE CARRIER:**

20           **(1) (I) MAY LIMIT THE EMPLOYERS THAT MAY APPLY FOR**  
21 **COVERAGE TO EMPLOYERS OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO LIVE, WORK, OR RESIDE**  
22 **IN THE SERVICE AREA FOR THE NETWORK; AND**

23           **(II) IF THE CARRIER IS A HEALTH MAINTENANCE**  
24 **ORGANIZATION, MAY LIMIT THE INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY APPLY FOR COVERAGE IN**  
25 **THE INDIVIDUAL MARKET TO THOSE WHO LIVE OR RESIDE IN THE SERVICE AREA**  
26 **FOR THE NETWORK; OR**

27          **(2) MAY DENY COVERAGE WITHIN A SERVICE AREA IF THE CARRIER:**

28           **(I) DEMONSTRATES TO THE COMMISSIONER THAT:**

29           **1. THE CARRIER DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO**  
30 **DELIVER ADEQUATE SERVICES TO ADDITIONAL ENROLLEES OF GROUPS OR**  
31 **ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALS BECAUSE OF ITS OBLIGATIONS TO EXISTING GROUP**  
32 **CONTRACT HOLDERS AND ENROLLEES; AND**

1                   **2. THE CARRIER APPLIES THE DENIAL OF COVERAGE**  
2 **UNIFORMLY TO ALL EMPLOYERS AND INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE**  
3 **CLAIMS EXPERIENCE OR ANY HEALTH STATUS-RELATED FACTOR; AND**

4                   **(II) DOES NOT OFFER COVERAGE WITHIN THE SERVICE AREA**  
5 **FOR AT LEAST 180 DAYS AFTER THE DATE THE CARRIER DENIED COVERAGE IN THE**  
6 **SERVICE AREA.**

7           **(D) A CARRIER MAY DENY COVERAGE IF THE CARRIER:**

8                   **(1) DEMONSTRATES TO THE COMMISSIONER THAT:**

9                   **(I) THE CARRIER DOES NOT HAVE THE FINANCIAL RESERVES**  
10 **NECESSARY TO UNDERWRITE ADDITIONAL COVERAGE; AND**

11                   **(II) THE CARRIER APPLIES THE DENIAL OF COVERAGE**  
12 **UNIFORMLY TO ALL EMPLOYERS AND INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE**  
13 **CLAIMS EXPERIENCE OR ANY HEALTH STATUS-RELATED FACTOR; AND**

14                   **(2) UNLESS A LATER DATE IS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY THE**  
15 **COMMISSIONER, DOES NOT OFFER THE DENIED COVERAGE FOR AT LEAST 180 DAYS**  
16 **AFTER THE DATE THE CARRIER DENIED THE COVERAGE.**

17 **15-1A-10.**

18           **(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION, A**  
19 **CARRIER SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR AND MAY NOT IMPOSE ANY**  
20 **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING COPAYMENTS, COINSURANCE, OR**  
21 **DEDUCTIBLES FOR:**

22                   **(1) EVIDENCE-BASED ITEMS OR SERVICES THAT HAVE IN EFFECT A**  
23 **RATING OF A OR B IN THE CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES**  
24 **PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE WITH RESPECT TO THE INDIVIDUAL**  
25 **INVOLVED;**

26                   **(2) IMMUNIZATIONS FOR ROUTINE USE IN CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS,**  
27 **AND ADULTS THAT HAVE IN EFFECT A RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ADVISORY**  
28 **COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE**  
29 **CONTROL AND PREVENTION WITH RESPECT TO THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED, IF THE**  
30 **RECOMMENDATION:**

31                   **(I) HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTERS**  
32 **FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION; AND**

1 (II) IS LISTED ON THE IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULES OF THE  
2 CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION FOR ROUTINE USE;

3 (3) WITH RESPECT TO INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS,  
4 EVIDENCE-INFORMED PREVENTIVE CARE AND SCREENINGS PROVIDED FOR IN  
5 COMPREHENSIVE GUIDELINES SUPPORTED BY THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND  
6 SERVICES ADMINISTRATION; AND

7 (4) WITH RESPECT TO WOMEN:

8 (I) ~~EXCEPT AS TO THE EXTENT NOT~~ PROVIDED IN ITEM (II) OF  
9 THIS ITEM, PREVENTIVE CARE AND SCREENINGS AS PROVIDED FOR IN  
10 COMPREHENSIVE GUIDELINES SUPPORTED BY THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND  
11 SERVICES ADMINISTRATION FOR PURPOSES OF § 2713(A)(4) OF THE FEDERAL  
12 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT; AND

13 (II) SUBJECT TO ~~§§ 15-826 AND 15-826.1~~ § 15-826(C) OF THIS  
14 TITLE, CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE AS PROVIDED FOR IN COMPREHENSIVE  
15 GUIDELINES SUPPORTED BY THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES  
16 ADMINISTRATION FOR PURPOSES OF § 2713(A)(4) OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC  
17 HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

18 (B) TO THE EXTENT THAT COST-SHARING IS OTHERWISE ALLOWED UNDER  
19 FEDERAL OR STATE LAW, A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN THAT USES A NETWORK OF  
20 PROVIDERS MAY IMPOSE COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS ON THE COVERAGE  
21 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION FOR ITEMS OR SERVICES  
22 DELIVERED BY AN OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER.

23 (C) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT A CARRIER FROM  
24 PROVIDING COVERAGE FOR SERVICES IN ADDITION TO THOSE RECOMMENDED BY  
25 THE UNITED STATES PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE OR TO DENY COVERAGE  
26 FOR SERVICES THAT ARE NOT RECOMMENDED BY THE TASK FORCE.

27 15-1A-11.

28 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION, A  
29 CARRIER THAT OFFERS A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN, INCLUDING A GRANDFATHERED  
30 PLAN, MAY NOT ESTABLISH LIFETIME LIMITS OR ANNUAL LIMITS ON THE DOLLAR  
31 VALUE OF BENEFITS FOR ANY INSURED INDIVIDUAL.

32 (B) TO THE EXTENT THAT LIMITS ARE OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED UNDER  
33 FEDERAL OR STATE LAW, A CARRIER MAY ESTABLISH ANNUAL LIMITS ON THE

1 DOLLAR VALUE OF BENEFITS FOR AN INSURED INDIVIDUAL FOR A GRANDFATHERED  
2 PLAN THAT IS AN INDIVIDUAL PLAN.

3 (C) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT A CARRIER FROM  
4 PLACING ANNUAL OR LIFETIME PER BENEFICIARY LIMITS ON SPECIFIC COVERED  
5 BENEFITS THAT ARE NOT ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS.

6 15-1A-12.

7 A CARRIER OFFERING A GROUP PLAN, INCLUDING A GRANDFATHERED PLAN,  
8 MAY NOT APPLY A WAITING PERIOD OF MORE THAN 90 DAYS THAT MUST PASS  
9 BEFORE COVERAGE BECOMES EFFECTIVE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS OTHERWISE  
10 ELIGIBLE FOR THE GROUP PLAN.

11 15-1A-13.

12 (A) IF A CARRIER REQUIRES OR PROVIDES FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A  
13 PARTICIPATING PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER FOR AN INSURED INDIVIDUAL, THE  
14 CARRIER SHALL ALLOW EACH INSURED INDIVIDUAL TO DESIGNATE ANY  
15 PARTICIPATING PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER IF THE PROVIDER IS AVAILABLE TO  
16 ACCEPT THE INSURED INDIVIDUAL.

17 (B) (1) (I) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO  
18 HAS A CHILD WHO IS AN INSURED INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE INDIVIDUAL'S HEALTH  
19 BENEFIT PLAN.

20 (II) THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO WAIVE ANY  
21 EXCLUSIONS OF COVERAGE UNDER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A HEALTH  
22 BENEFIT PLAN WITH RESPECT TO COVERAGE OF PEDIATRIC CARE.

23 (2) IF A CARRIER REQUIRES OR PROVIDES FOR THE DESIGNATION OF  
24 A PARTICIPATING PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER FOR A CHILD, THE CARRIER SHALL  
25 ALLOW THE INDIVIDUAL TO DESIGNATE ANY PARTICIPATING PHYSICIAN WHO  
26 SPECIALIZES IN PEDIATRICS AS THE CHILD'S PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER IF THE  
27 PROVIDER IS AVAILABLE TO ACCEPT THE CHILD.

28 (C) (1) (I) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A CARRIER THAT:

29 1. PROVIDES COVERAGE FOR OBSTETRICAL OR  
30 GYNECOLOGICAL CARE; AND

31 2. REQUIRES THE DESIGNATION BY AN INSURED  
32 INDIVIDUAL OF A PARTICIPATING PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER.



1                   **(II) THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO:**

2                   **1. WAIVE ANY EXCLUSIONS OF COVERAGE UNDER THE**  
3 **TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN WITH RESPECT TO COVERAGE**  
4 **OF OBSTETRICAL OR GYNECOLOGICAL CARE; OR**

5                   **2. PROHIBIT A CARRIER FROM REQUIRING THAT THE**  
6 **OBSTETRICAL OR GYNECOLOGICAL PROVIDER NOTIFY THE PRIMARY CARE**  
7 **PROVIDER OR CARRIER FOR AN INSURED INDIVIDUAL OF TREATMENT DECISIONS.**

8                   **(2) A CARRIER SHALL TREAT THE PROVISION OF OBSTETRICAL AND**  
9 **GYNECOLOGICAL CARE AND THE ORDERING OF RELATED OBSTETRICAL AND**  
10 **GYNECOLOGICAL ITEMS AND SERVICES BY A PARTICIPATING HEALTH CARE**  
11 **PROVIDER THAT SPECIALIZES IN OBSTETRICS OR GYNECOLOGY AS CARE**  
12 **AUTHORIZED BY THE PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER FOR THE INSURED INDIVIDUAL.**

13                   **(3) A CARRIER MAY NOT REQUIRE AUTHORIZATION OR REFERRAL BY**  
14 **ANY PERSON, INCLUDING THE PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER FOR THE INSURED**  
15 **INDIVIDUAL, FOR AN INSURED INDIVIDUAL WHO SEEKS COVERAGE FOR**  
16 **OBSTETRICAL OR GYNECOLOGICAL CARE PROVIDED BY A PARTICIPATING HEALTH**  
17 **CARE PROVIDER WHO SPECIALIZES IN OBSTETRICS OR GYNECOLOGY.**

18                   **(4) A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER THAT PROVIDES OBSTETRICAL OR**  
19 **GYNECOLOGICAL CARE SHALL COMPLY WITH A CARRIER'S POLICIES AND**  
20 **PROCEDURES.**

21 **15-1A-14.**

22                   **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
23 **INDICATED.**

24                   **(2) "EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITION" MEANS A MEDICAL**  
25 **CONDITION THAT MANIFESTS ITSELF BY ACUTE SYMPTOMS OF SUCH SEVERITY,**  
26 **INCLUDING SEVERE PAIN, THAT THE ABSENCE OF IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION**  
27 **COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED BY A PRUDENT LAYPERSON, WHO POSSESSES AN**  
28 **AVERAGE KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE, TO RESULT IN A CONDITION**  
29 **DESCRIBED IN § 1867(E)(1) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.**

30                   **(3) "EMERGENCY SERVICES" MEANS, WITH RESPECT TO AN**  
31 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITION:**

32                   **(I) A MEDICAL SCREENING EXAMINATION THAT IS WITHIN THE**  
33 **CAPABILITY OF THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF A HOSPITAL OR FREESTANDING**  
34 **MEDICAL FACILITY, INCLUDING ANCILLARY SERVICES ROUTINELY AVAILABLE TO**

1 THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TO EVALUATE AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
2 CONDITION; OR

3 (II) ANY OTHER EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT WITHIN THE  
4 CAPABILITIES OF THE STAFF AND FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT THE HOSPITAL OR  
5 FREESTANDING MEDICAL FACILITY THAT IS NECESSARY TO STABILIZE THE  
6 PATIENT.

7 (B) IF A CARRIER PROVIDES OR COVERS ANY BENEFITS FOR EMERGENCY  
8 SERVICES IN AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OF A HOSPITAL OR FREESTANDING  
9 MEDICAL FACILITY, THE CARRIER:

10 (1) MAY NOT REQUIRE AN INSURED INDIVIDUAL TO OBTAIN PRIOR  
11 AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES; AND

12 (2) SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES  
13 REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PROVIDING THE  
14 EMERGENCY SERVICES HAS A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CARRIER TO  
15 FURNISH EMERGENCY SERVICES.

16 (C) IF A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OF EMERGENCY SERVICES DOES NOT  
17 HAVE A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CARRIER TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY  
18 SERVICES, THE CARRIER:

19 (1) MAY NOT IMPOSE ANY ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENT OR  
20 LIMITATION ON COVERAGE THAT WOULD BE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN  
21 ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS OR LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON COVERAGE FOR  
22 EMERGENCY SERVICES FURNISHED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WITH A  
23 CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CARRIER;

24 (2) SUBJECT TO § 14-205.2 OF THIS ARTICLE AND § 19-710.1 OF  
25 THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE, MAY NOT IMPOSE ANY COST-SHARING AMOUNT  
26 GREATER THAN THE AMOUNT IMPOSED FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES FURNISHED BY  
27 A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WITH A CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE  
28 CARRIER; AND

29 (3) SHALL REIMBURSE THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AT THE  
30 REIMBURSEMENT RATE SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

31 (D) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 14-205.2 OF THIS ARTICLE AND § 19-710.1  
32 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE, A CARRIER SHALL REIMBURSE A HEALTH  
33 CARE PROVIDER OF EMERGENCY SERVICES THAT DOES NOT HAVE A CONTRACTUAL  
34 RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CARRIER THE GREATER OF:

1           **(1) THE MEDIAN AMOUNT NEGOTIATED WITH IN-NETWORK**  
2 **PROVIDERS FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICE, EXCLUDING ANY IN-NETWORK**  
3 **COPAYMENT OR COINSURANCE;**

4           **(2) THE AMOUNT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICE CALCULATED USING**  
5 **THE SAME METHOD THE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN GENERALLY USES TO DETERMINE**  
6 **PAYMENTS FOR OUT-OF-NETWORK SERVICES, EXCLUDING ANY IN-NETWORK**  
7 **COPAYMENT OR COINSURANCE, WITHOUT REDUCTION FOR OUT-OF-NETWORK**  
8 **COST-SHARING THAT GENERALLY APPLIES UNDER THE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN; OR**

9           **(3) THE AMOUNT THAT WOULD BE PAID UNDER MEDICARE PART A OR**  
10 **PART B FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICE, EXCLUDING ANY IN-NETWORK COPAYMENT**  
11 **OR COINSURANCE.**

12 **15-1A-15.**

13           **(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL GRANDFATHERED PLANS AND TO EVERY**  
14 **HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN THAT IS NOT A GRANDFATHERED PLAN.**

15           **(B) (1) A CARRIER SHALL COMPILE AND PROVIDE TO CONSUMERS A**  
16 **SUMMARY OF BENEFITS AND COVERAGE EXPLANATION THAT:**

17                   **(I) ACCURATELY DESCRIBES THE BENEFITS AND COVERAGE**  
18 **UNDER THE APPLICABLE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN; AND**

19                   **(II) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**  
20 **SUBSECTION, COMPLIES WITH THE STANDARDS UNDER 45 C.F.R. § 147.200.**

21           **(2) IF THE COMMISSIONER ADOPTS REGULATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN**  
22 **SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A SUMMARY OF BENEFITS AND COVERAGE**  
23 **EXPLANATION SHALL COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS IN THE ADOPTED**  
24 **REGULATIONS.**

25           **(C) TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION**  
26 **WITH THE MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE, SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS**  
27 **THAT:**

28                   **(1) ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR THE SUMMARY OF BENEFITS AND**  
29 **COVERAGE; AND**

30                   **(2) ARE CONSISTENT WITH 45 C.F.R. § 147.200 AND ANY**  
31 **CORRESPONDING FEDERAL RULES AND GUIDANCE IN EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2019.**

32           **(D) THE SUMMARY OF BENEFITS AND COVERAGE SHALL BE PRESENTED:**

1           **(1) IN A UNIFORM FORMAT THAT DOES NOT EXCEED FOUR PAGES IN**  
2 **LENGTH AND DOES NOT INCLUDE PRINT SMALLER THAN 12 POINT TYPE; AND**

3           **(2) IN A CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE MANNER**  
4 **THAT USES TERMINOLOGY UNDERSTANDABLE BY THE AVERAGE INSURED**  
5 **INDIVIDUAL.**

6           **(E) THE STANDARDS DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION**  
7 **SHALL INCLUDE:**

8           **(1) UNIFORM DEFINITIONS OF STANDARD INSURANCE-RELATED**  
9 **TERMS AND MEDICAL TERMS SO CONSUMERS MAY COMPARE HEALTH BENEFIT**  
10 **PLANS AND UNDERSTAND THE TERMS OF AND EXCEPTIONS TO COVERAGE,**  
11 **INCLUDING:**

12                   **(I) PREMIUM;**

13                   **(II) DEDUCTIBLE;**

14                   **(III) COINSURANCE;**

15                   **(IV) COPAYMENT;**

16                   **(V) OUT-OF-POCKET LIMIT;**

17                   **(VI) PREFERRED PROVIDER;**

18                   **(VII) NONPREFERRED PROVIDER;**

19                   **(VIII) OUT-OF-NETWORK COPAYMENTS;**

20                   **(IX) USUAL, CUSTOMARY, AND REASONABLE FEES;**

21                   **(X) EXCLUDED SERVICES;**

22                   **(XI) GRIEVANCE AND APPEALS;**

23                   **(XII) HOSPITALIZATION;**

24                   **(XIII) HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT CARE;**

25                   **(XIV) EMERGENCY ROOM CARE;**

26                   **(XV) PHYSICIAN SERVICES;**

1 (XVI) PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE;

2 (XVII) DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT;

3 (XVIII) HOME HEALTH CARE;

4 (XIX) SKILLED NURSING CARE;

5 (XX) REHABILITATION SERVICES;

6 (XXI) HOSPICE SERVICES;

7 (XXII) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION; AND

8 (XXIII) ANY OTHER TERMS THE COMMISSIONER DETERMINES  
9 ARE IMPORTANT TO DEFINE SO A CONSUMER MAY COMPARE THE MEDICAL  
10 BENEFITS OFFERED BY HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS AND UNDERSTAND THE EXTENT OF  
11 AND EXCEPTIONS TO THOSE MEDICAL BENEFITS;

12 (2) A DESCRIPTION OF THE COVERAGE OF A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN,  
13 INCLUDING COST-SHARING FOR:

14 (I) EACH OF THE CATEGORIES OF THE ESSENTIAL HEALTH  
15 BENEFITS IN THE STATE BENCHMARK PLAN SELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH §  
16 31-116 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND

17 (II) OTHER BENEFITS, AS IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER;

18 (3) THE EXCEPTIONS, REDUCTIONS, AND LIMITATIONS ON  
19 COVERAGE;

20 (4) THE RENEWABILITY AND CONTINUATION OF COVERAGE  
21 PROVISIONS;

22 (5) A COVERAGE FACTS LABEL THAT INCLUDES EXAMPLES TO  
23 ILLUSTRATE COMMON BENEFITS SCENARIOS BASED ON RECOGNIZED CLINICAL  
24 PRACTICE GUIDELINES, INCLUDING PREGNANCY AND SERIOUS OR CHRONIC  
25 MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND RELATED COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS;

26 (6) A STATEMENT OF WHETHER THE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN ENSURES  
27 THAT THE PLAN OR COVERAGE SHARE OF THE TOTAL ALLOWED COSTS OF BENEFITS  
28 PROVIDED UNDER THE PLAN OR COVERAGE IS NOT LESS THAN 60% OF THE COSTS;

29 (7) A STATEMENT THAT:

1                   **(I) THE SUMMARY OF BENEFITS IS AN OUTLINE OF THE HEALTH**  
2 **BENEFIT PLAN; AND**

3                   **(II) THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN SHOULD BE**  
4 **CONSULTED TO DETERMINE THE GOVERNING CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS; AND**

5                   **(8) A CONTACT NUMBER FOR THE CONSUMER TO CALL WITH**  
6 **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND A WEBSITE WHERE A COPY OF THE ACTUAL HEALTH**  
7 **BENEFIT PLAN CAN BE REVIEWED AND OBTAINED.**

8                   **(F) AS APPROPRIATE, THE COMMISSIONER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE**  
9 **MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE, SHALL PERIODICALLY REVIEW AND**  
10 **UPDATE THE STANDARDS DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.**

11                   **(G) (1) EACH CARRIER SHALL PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF BENEFITS AND**  
12 **COVERAGE EXPLANATION THAT COMPLIES WITH THE STANDARDS DEVELOPED**  
13 **UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION BY THE COMMISSIONER TO:**

14                               **(I) AN APPLICANT AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION; AND**

15                               **(II) AN INSURED INDIVIDUAL BEFORE THE TIME OF**  
16 **ENROLLMENT OR REENROLLMENT, AS APPLICABLE.**

17                               **(2) A CARRIER MAY PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF BENEFITS AND**  
18 **COVERAGE EXPLANATION AS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
19 **SUBSECTION IN PAPER OR ELECTRONIC FORM.**

20                   **(H) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS ARTICLE, IF A CARRIER**  
21 **MAKES ANY MATERIAL MODIFICATION IN ANY OF THE TERMS OF THE PLAN OR**  
22 **COVERAGE INVOLVED THAT IS NOT REFLECTED IN THE MOST RECENTLY PROVIDED**  
23 **SUMMARY OF BENEFITS AND COVERAGE EXPLANATION, THE CARRIER SHALL**  
24 **PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE MODIFICATION TO INSURED INDIVIDUALS NOT LATER**  
25 **THAN 60 DAYS BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE MODIFICATION.**

26                   **(I) (1) THE MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION SHALL LEVY A**  
27 **FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000 AGAINST A CARRIER THAT WILLFULLY FAILS TO**  
28 **PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

29                               **(2) A FAILURE WITH RESPECT TO EACH INSURED INDIVIDUAL SHALL**  
30 **CONSTITUTE A SEPARATE OFFENSE FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

31 **15-1A-16.**

1           **(A) (1) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, “MEDICAL LOSS RATIO”:**

2                   **(I) HAS THE MEANING ESTABLISHED IN 45 C.F.R. § 158.221; OR**

3                   **(II) IF THE COMMISSIONER ADOPTS REGULATIONS AS**  
4 **DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, HAS THE MEANING**  
5 **ESTABLISHED BY THE ADOPTED REGULATIONS.**

6           **(2) TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ADOPT**  
7 **REGULATIONS THAT:**

8                   **(I) ESTABLISH A DEFINITION FOR “MEDICAL LOSS RATIO”; AND**

9                   **(II) ARE CONSISTENT WITH 45 C.F.R. § 158.221 AND ANY**  
10 **CORRESPONDING FEDERAL RULES AND GUIDANCE AS THOSE PROVISIONS WERE IN**  
11 **EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2019.**

12           **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL GRANDFATHERED PLANS AND TO EVERY**  
13 **HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN THAT IS NOT A GRANDFATHERED PLAN.**

14           **(C) THE MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE MEDICAL LOSS RATIO IS:**

15                   **(1) FOR THE LARGE GROUP MARKET, 85% OR A HIGHER PERCENTAGE**  
16 **AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER IN REGULATIONS; AND**

17                   **(2) FOR THE SMALL GROUP MARKET AND INDIVIDUAL MARKET, 80%**  
18 **OR A HIGHER PERCENTAGE AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER IN**  
19 **REGULATIONS.**

20           **(D) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
21 **EACH CARRIER SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CALCULATING**  
22 **MEDICAL LOSS RATIOS AND RELATED REPORTING AND REBATE REQUIREMENTS**  
23 **ESTABLISHED IN 45 C.F.R. PART 158 AND ANY CORRESPONDING FEDERAL RULES**  
24 **AND GUIDANCE.**

25                   **(2) IF THE COMMISSIONER ADOPTS REGULATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN**  
26 **SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, EACH CARRIER SHALL COMPLY WITH THE**  
27 **REQUIREMENTS IN THE ADOPTED REGULATIONS.**

28           **(E) TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ADOPT**  
29 **REGULATIONS THAT:**

30                   **(1) ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR CALCULATING MEDICAL LOSS**  
31 **RATIOS AND RELATED REPORTING AND REBATE REQUIREMENTS; AND**

1           **(2) ARE CONSISTENT WITH 45 C.F.R. PART 158 AND ANY**  
2 **CORRESPONDING FEDERAL RULES AND GUIDANCE AS THOSE PROVISIONS WERE IN**  
3 **EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2019.**

4 **15-1A-17.**

5           **(A) (1) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE A CARRIER**  
6 **TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION THAT IS PROPRIETARY AND TRADE SECRET**  
7 **INFORMATION UNDER APPLICABLE LAW.**

8           **(2) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO CARRIERS OFFERING AN**  
9 **INDIVIDUAL PLAN OR A SMALL GROUP PLAN.**

10           **(B) A CARRIER SHALL DISCLOSE TO AN INDIVIDUAL OR EMPLOYER, AS**  
11 **APPLICABLE, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

12           **(1) THE CARRIER'S RIGHT TO CHANGE PREMIUM RATES AND THE**  
13 **FACTORS THAT MAY AFFECT CHANGES IN PREMIUM RATES; AND**

14           **(2) THE BENEFITS AND PREMIUMS AVAILABLE UNDER ALL HEALTH**  
15 **BENEFIT PLANS FOR WHICH THE EMPLOYER OR INDIVIDUAL IS QUALIFIED.**

16           **(C) THE CARRIER SHALL MAKE THE DISCLOSURE REQUIRED UNDER**  
17 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION:**

18           **(1) AS PART OF ITS SOLICITATION AND SALES MATERIAL; OR**

19           **(2) IF THE INFORMATION IS REQUESTED BY THE INDIVIDUAL OR**  
20 **EMPLOYER.**

21           **(D) INFORMATION DISCLOSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF**  
22 **THIS SECTION SHALL BE:**

23           **(1) PROVIDED IN A MANNER DETERMINED TO BE UNDERSTANDABLE**  
24 **BY THE AVERAGE EMPLOYER OR INDIVIDUAL; AND**

25           **(2) SUFFICIENT TO REASONABLY INFORM THE EMPLOYER OR**  
26 **INDIVIDUAL OF THE EMPLOYER'S OR INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**  
27 **UNDER THE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.**

28 **15-1A-18.**



1           **(A) A CARRIER MAY OFFER A CATASTROPHIC PLAN IN THE INDIVIDUAL**  
2 **MARKET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

3           **(B) A CATASTROPHIC PLAN MAY BE OFFERED ONLY TO INDIVIDUALS WHO:**

4                   **(1) ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 30 YEARS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF**  
5 **THE PLAN YEAR; OR**

6                   **(2) HOLD CERTIFICATION FOR A HARDSHIP EXEMPTION OR AN**  
7 **AFFORDABILITY EXEMPTION AS REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.**

8           **(C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
9 **TO BE OFFERED A CATASTROPHIC PLAN, AN INDIVIDUAL SHALL HOLD**  
10 **CERTIFICATION FOR A HARDSHIP EXEMPTION OR AN AFFORDABILITY EXEMPTION**  
11 **UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 5000A.**

12                   **(2) IF THE MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE ADOPTS**  
13 **REGULATIONS AS DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, AN**  
14 **INDIVIDUAL SHALL HOLD CERTIFICATION FOR A HARDSHIP EXEMPTION OR AN**  
15 **AFFORDABILITY EXEMPTION UNDER THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE**  
16 **EXCHANGE.**

17           **(D) TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, THE MARYLAND HEALTH BENEFIT**  
18 **EXCHANGE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT:**

19                   **(1) ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR ISSUING HARDSHIP EXEMPTIONS AND**  
20 **AFFORDABILITY EXEMPTIONS; AND**

21                   **(2) ARE CONSISTENT WITH 42 U.S.C. § 5000A AND ANY**  
22 **CORRESPONDING FEDERAL RULES AND GUIDANCE AS THOSE PROVISIONS WERE IN**  
23 **EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2019.**

24           **(E) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A**  
25 **CATASTROPHIC PLAN SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR ESSENTIAL HEALTH**  
26 **BENEFITS.**

27                   **(2) A CATASTROPHIC PLAN SHALL REQUIRE A DEDUCTIBLE THAT:**

28                           **(I) IS EQUAL TO THE ANNUAL LIMIT ON COST-SHARING**  
29 **DESCRIBED IN § 15-1A-19 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

30                           **(II) APPLIES TO ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS;**

1 (III) DOES NOT APPLY TO AT LEAST THREE PRIMARY CARE VISITS  
2 EACH PLAN YEAR; AND

3 (IV) DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY COVERED BENEFITS FOR WHICH A  
4 DEDUCTIBLE IS PROHIBITED UNDER THIS TITLE.

5 15-1A-19.

6 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, "COST-SHARING" MEANS ANY EXPENDITURE  
7 REQUIRED BY OR ON BEHALF OF AN INSURED INDIVIDUAL WITH RESPECT TO  
8 ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS.

9 (2) "COST-SHARING" INCLUDES:

10 (I) DEDUCTIBLES, COINSURANCE, COPAYMENTS, OR SIMILAR  
11 CHARGES; AND

12 (II) ANY OTHER EXPENDITURE REQUIRED OF AN INSURED  
13 INDIVIDUAL THAT IS A QUALIFIED MEDICAL EXPENSE, AS DEFINED IN 26 U.S.C. §  
14 223(D)(2), WITH RESPECT TO ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS COVERED UNDER THE  
15 PLAN.

16 (3) "COST-SHARING" DOES NOT INCLUDE PREMIUMS, BALANCE  
17 BILLING AMOUNTS FOR NONNETWORK PROVIDERS, OR SPENDING FOR  
18 NONCOVERED SERVICES.

19 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
20 EACH CARRIER SHALL COMPLY WITH ANNUAL LIMITATIONS ON COST-SHARING FOR  
21 ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS COVERED UNDER HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS AS  
22 ESTABLISHED BY 45 C.F.R. § 156.130.

23 (2) IF THE COMMISSIONER ADOPTS REGULATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN  
24 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, EACH CARRIER SHALL COMPLY WITH THE  
25 ADOPTED REGULATIONS.

26 (C) TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ADOPT  
27 REGULATIONS THAT:

28 (1) ESTABLISH ANNUAL LIMITATIONS ON COST-SHARING; AND

29 (2) ARE CONSISTENT WITH 45 C.F.R. § 156.130 AND ANY  
30 CORRESPONDING FEDERAL RULES AND GUIDANCE AS THOSE PROVISIONS WERE IN  
31 EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2019.

1 **15-1A-20.**

2 (A) (1) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO INDIVIDUAL PLANS AND SMALL  
3 GROUP PLANS.

4 (2) THE REQUIREMENTS IN THIS SECTION ARE IN ADDITION TO AND  
5 NOT IN SUBSTITUTION OF ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF LAW RELATED TO  
6 PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS.

7 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
8 AN INDIVIDUAL PLAN OR A SMALL GROUP PLAN SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO PROVIDE  
9 PRESCRIPTION DRUG ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS ONLY IF THE INDIVIDUAL PLAN  
10 OR SMALL GROUP PLAN COMPLIES WITH 45 C.F.R. § 156.122.

11 (2) IF THE COMMISSIONER ADOPTS REGULATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN  
12 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, AN INDIVIDUAL PLAN OR A SMALL GROUP PLAN  
13 SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO PROVIDE PRESCRIPTION DRUG ESSENTIAL HEALTH  
14 BENEFITS ONLY IF THE INDIVIDUAL PLAN OR SMALL GROUP PLAN COMPLIES WITH  
15 THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSIONER.

16 (C) TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ADOPT  
17 REGULATIONS THAT:

18 (1) ESTABLISH CRITERIA TO DETERMINE WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL  
19 PLAN OR A SMALL GROUP PLAN PROVIDES PRESCRIPTION DRUG ESSENTIAL HEALTH  
20 BENEFIT COVERAGE; AND

21 (2) ARE CONSISTENT WITH 45 C.F.R. § 156.122 AND ANY  
22 CORRESPONDING FEDERAL RULES AND GUIDANCE AS THOSE PROVISIONS WERE IN  
23 EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2019.

24 **15-1A-21.**

25 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ALL GRANDFATHERED PLANS AND TO EVERY  
26 HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN THAT IS NOT A GRANDFATHERED PLAN.

27 (B) (1) SUBJECT TO § 15-1106 OF THIS TITLE, A CARRIER MAY NOT  
28 RESCIND THE COVERAGE UNDER A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN UNLESS:

29 (I) THE INSURED INDIVIDUAL PERFORMS AN ACT, A PRACTICE,  
30 OR AN OMISSION THAT CONSTITUTES FRAUD OR MAKES A MISREPRESENTATION OF  
31 MATERIAL FACT AS PROHIBITED BY THE HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN; AND

1 (II) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS  
2 SUBSECTION, THE CARRIER COMPLIES WITH 45 C.F.R. § 147.128.

3 (2) IF THE COMMISSIONER ADOPTS REGULATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN  
4 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A CARRIER THAT RESCINDS THE COVERAGE  
5 UNDER A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS  
6 SECTION SHALL COMPLY WITH THE ADOPTED REGULATIONS.

7 (C) TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ADOPT  
8 REGULATIONS THAT:

9 (1) ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS THAT A CARRIER SHALL COMPLY  
10 WITH TO RESCIND COVERAGE UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; AND

11 (2) ARE CONSISTENT WITH 45 C.F.R. § 147.128 AND ANY FEDERAL  
12 RULES AND GUIDANCE AS THOSE PROVISIONS WERE IN EFFECT DECEMBER 1, 2019.

13 15-1A-22.

14 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
15 INDICATED.

16 (2) "GENDER IDENTITY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 20-101 OF  
17 THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

18 (3) "SEXUAL ORIENTATION" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 20-101  
19 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

20 (B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A CARRIER FROM REFUSING,  
21 WITHHOLDING, OR DENYING COVERAGE UNDER A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN TO ANY  
22 INDIVIDUAL FOR FAILURE TO CONFORM TO THE USUAL AND REGULAR  
23 REQUIREMENTS, STANDARDS, AND REGULATIONS OF THE CARRIER, UNLESS THE  
24 DENIAL IS BASED ON DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE, SEX, COLOR,  
25 CREED, NATIONAL ORIGIN, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AGE, GENDER  
26 IDENTITY, OR DISABILITY.

27 (C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO LIMITATIONS OR RESTRICTIONS  
28 RELATED TO AGE OR MARITAL STATUS THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED OR  
29 REQUIRED UNDER THIS ARTICLE TO LIMIT OR RESTRICT ELIGIBILITY FOR  
30 INSURANCE COVERAGE OR BENEFITS.

31 ~~(D)~~ (D) A CARRIER MAY NOT REFUSE, WITHHOLD, OR DENY ANY  
32 INDIVIDUAL COVERAGE UNDER A HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN OFFERED BY THE CARRIER  
33 OR OTHERWISE DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL BECAUSE OF THE

1 INDIVIDUAL'S RACE, SEX, CREED, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, MARITAL STATUS,  
2 SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AGE, GENDER IDENTITY, OR DISABILITY.

3 ~~(D)~~ (E) THE COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS SHALL ENFORCE THE  
4 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION AS PROVIDED FOR IN § 2-202 OF THIS ARTICLE.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Insurance  
6 Administration, the Health Education and Advocacy Unit of the Office of the Attorney  
7 General, and the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange:

8 (1) shall monitor federal statutes and regulations to determine whether  
9 provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act or corresponding regulations are repealed or  
10 amended to the benefit or detriment of Maryland consumers; and

11 (2) on or before December 31 each year until 2024, in accordance with §  
12 2-1257 of the State Government Article, submit a joint report to the Senate Finance  
13 Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on:

14 (i) any repeals or amendments determined to be a benefit or  
15 detriment to Maryland consumers; and

16 (ii) recommendations for legislation the General Assembly should  
17 enact to address the repeals or amendments.

18 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

19 (a) The General Assembly, in Chapters 3 and 4 of the Acts of the General  
20 Assembly of 2011, enacted the list of protections in § 15-137.1 of the Insurance Article to  
21 protect Maryland residents approximately 1 year after the Patient Protection and  
22 Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed and approximately 1 year before the United States  
23 Supreme Court upheld the majority of the ACA in National Federation of Independent  
24 Business v. Sebelius.

25 (b) The General Assembly, regardless of whether the ACA was found to be  
26 constitutional, intended for the protections listed in § 15-137.1 of the Insurance Article, as  
27 enacted by Chapters 3 and 4 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2011 and as amended  
28 thereafter, to apply to individual health insurance coverage and health insurance coverage  
29 offered in the small group and large group markets issued or delivered in the State by an  
30 authorized insurer, nonprofit health service plan, or health maintenance organization.

31 (c) The General Assembly, in Chapters 3 and 4 of the Acts of the General  
32 Assembly of 2011 and in yearly conformity bills thereafter consistent with the General  
33 Assembly's intent, repealed some provisions of Maryland law that provided the same or  
34 similar protections as the ACA and used cross-references to the ACA as a stylistic drafting  
35 choice for the purpose of maintaining consistency between State and federal law.

1 (d) In recent years, the federal government has reduced the shared responsibility  
2 payment for individuals failing to demonstrate health insurance coverage to \$0, has taken  
3 regulatory action to minimize the protections provided to Americans by the ACA, and, after  
4 refusing to defend the ACA, has asserted, in the context of *Texas v. United States*, that 26  
5 U.S.C. § 5000(A), the minimum essential coverage requirement, is unconstitutional and  
6 that the remainder of the ACA is inseverable.

7 (e) Moving the provisions in § 15–137.1 of the Insurance Article to §  
8 15–1A–02 of the Insurance Article and supplementing the cross–references to the ACA with  
9 the codification of specific statutory language in Title 15, Subtitle 1A of the Insurance  
10 Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, further implements the continuing intent of the  
11 General Assembly to ensure that Maryland residents benefit from the consumer  
12 protections.

13 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
14 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
15 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to  
16 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
17 enacted.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.