

Annotated Code of Maryland(1990 Replacement Volume and 1993 Supplement)(As enacted by Chapter 9 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1993)BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,Article 48A – Insurance CodeSection 354KK(c), 470AA(c), and 477KK(c)Annotated Code of Maryland(1991 Replacement Volume and 1993 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Phenylketonuria (PKU) is a cause of severe mental retardation and can be prevented if diagnosed within the first three weeks after childbirth; and

WHEREAS, The State's laws direct the screening of newborn infants for hereditary and congenital disorders in the hospital prior to discharge; and

WHEREAS, Hospital stays of less than 24 hours after childbirth typically result in unsatisfactory PKU specimens as a result of insufficient milk feedings, and the incidence of unsatisfactory PKU specimens has risen from 5% in 1989, to 30% in the second half of 1992, to 40% in 1993, and 25% of infants with unsatisfactory PKU specimens never receive a subsequent screening; and

WHEREAS, Insurers and nonprofit health service plans have implemented benefit plans generally covering no more than 24 hours of postpartum stay in a hospital, despite little or no scientific support for the efficacy and safety of this policy for the general population; and

WHEREAS, The Guide to Perinatal Care, published by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, recommends a hospital stay of 48 hours after childbirth; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly to maximize the prevention of PKU and other hereditary and congenital disorders; now, therefore,

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

Article 48A – Insurance Code

490W.

(A) ~~(1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:~~

~~(2) "CONTRACT OR POLICY" MEANS A CONTRACT OR POLICY OF HEALTH INSURANCE DELIVERED OR ISSUED FOR DELIVERY WITHIN THIS STATE TO AN EMPLOYER OR AN INDIVIDUAL ON A GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL BASIS THAT PROVIDES COVERAGE FOR HEALTH CARE ON AN EXPENSE INCURRED BASIS.~~