

vetoed House Bill 695 - Health Insurance - Study of Maryland's Small Group Market.

This bill requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to contract with an independent consultant to study Maryland's small group health insurance market, comparing its reform law to other states. The consultant must meet with and provide periodic updates to an independent advisory committee comprised of small employers. The Commission is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2002.

Senate Bill 457, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 695.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

House Bill No. 695

AN ACT concerning

Health Insurance - Study of Maryland's Small Group Market

FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~Department of Budget and Management to issue a certain request for proposal for~~ Maryland Health Care Commission to contract with an independent consultant to conduct a certain study in a certain manner; providing for the funding of the study; specifying the scope of the study; requiring the ~~independent consultant contracted by the Department to conclude its report by a certain date, to~~ Commission to provide a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date in a certain manner, and to provide a copy of the report to certain entities; providing for the termination of this Act; ~~making the implementation of this Act contingent on an increase in certain fees; requiring the Commission to notify the Department of Legislative Services if certain fees are not increased;~~ and generally relating to a study of Maryland's small group health insurance market.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) ~~the Department of Budget and Management shall issue a request for proposal that outlines the requirements and details of a contract for an independent consultant to study Maryland's small group health insurance market;~~

(b) ~~funding for the study, not to exceed \$75,000, shall be included in the State budget for fiscal 2002;~~

(a) the Maryland Health Care Commission shall:

(1) contract with an independent consultant to conduct a study comparing the performance of Maryland's small group health insurance market reform law to other states; and