

CHAPTER 9

(House Bill 1359)

AN ACT concerning

Health Care and Insurance Reform — Managed Cooperation

~~FOR the purpose of creating a new subtitle in the Insurance Code governing health insurance; establishing certain health insurance reforms including community rating, guaranteed issue of certain health benefit plans, limitation of preexisting condition provisions, and establishment of portability of health benefit plans; establishing enrollment procedures; imposing certain requirements on carriers who offer health benefit plans in the State; requiring renewal of health benefit plans and providing certain exceptions; establishing the Health Care Benefit and Data Commission; defining certain responsibilities of the Commission; requiring the Commission to specify a set of effective health care benefits to be included in health benefit plans; establishing criteria for specifying those benefits; requiring the Commission to establish and maintain a unified health care data base; specifying information to be included in the data base; providing for funding for the data base; and generally relating to practices, procedures, and information concerning health care financing in the State.~~

FOR the purpose of creating a new subtitle in the Article 48A - Insurance Code governing certain small employer group health insurance plans; establishing certain health insurance reforms including adjusted community rating, guaranteed issue of certain health benefit plans, limitation of preexisting condition provisions, and establishment of portability of health benefit plans; establishing enrollment procedures; imposing certain requirements on carriers who offer health benefit plans in the State; requiring renewal of health benefit plans and providing certain exceptions and modifications; limiting the application of certain portions of this Act to certain small employer health insurance carriers until a certain percentage of the health insurance market is covered under this Act or until certain other reforms have occurred; providing for the general application of the provisions of this Act pending the occurrence of one of those events; creating the Medical Care Data Review Commission in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for certain purposes; specifying the membership and terms of the Commission; authorizing the Commission to appoint an executive director of the Commission under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission to establish a statewide Medical Care Data Base to compile certain data; requiring the Commission to adopt certain regulations specifying a comprehensive standard health benefit plan; requiring certain confidentiality; requiring the Commission to publish a certain report, consult with certain representatives, and develop a certain system to provide certain information to physicians; requiring the Commission to perform certain duties; authorizing the Commission to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Commission to prepare a certain report; authorizing the Commission to contract with certain qualified independent third parties for any service necessary to carry out certain powers and duties; specifying that the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene does not have certain powers over the Commission; authorizing the Commission to