

CHAPTER 120

(House Bill 182)

AN ACT concerning

Patients' Bill of Rights Act of 1999

FOR the purpose of requiring certain health insurance carriers to establish and implement a procedure that provides for a standing referral to a specialist under specified circumstances; ~~prohibiting certain health insurance carriers from imposing a certain requirement; requiring certain health insurance carriers to establish and implement a procedure that allows a specialist to act as a primary care coordinator under specified circumstances;~~ requiring certain health insurance carriers to establish and implement a procedure that provides for a referral to a specialist who is not part of a carrier's provider panel under specified circumstances; providing that a decision by a carrier *or a certain entity* not to provide access to or coverage of certain treatments *or certain prescription drugs or devices* ~~or certain prescription drugs or devices~~ constitutes an adverse decision under certain circumstances; requiring certain health insurance ~~carriers~~ *entities* to establish and implement a procedure that provides for coverage of certain prescription drugs and devices under specified circumstances; requiring the Maryland Insurance Administration to serve as the single point of entry for consumers to access certain information regarding health insurance; providing for the funding of certain activities of the Maryland Insurance Administration; requiring the Maryland Insurance Administration to adopt certain regulations; requiring certain health insurance entities to provide certain home visits to certain individuals who have undergone certain procedures; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct a certain review and submit a certain report; requiring the Maryland Insurance Administration, in consultation with the Health Care Access and Cost Commission, to perform a certain study and present findings to the House Economic Matters Committee and the Senate Finance Committee by certain dates; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; ~~requiring certain health insurance carriers to provide a certain minimum length of inpatient hospitalization coverage after a mastectomy, removal of a testicle, lymph node dissection, or lumpectomy that is performed for the treatment of breast or testicular cancer;~~ defining certain terms; ~~providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act~~; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to health insurance, coverage, and access to services.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 19-706(ff)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,