

(2) determine the feasibility of including any portion of the population that is currently eligible for the Children and Families Health Care Program in an expanded private option program;

(3) develop a specific health benefit package to be offered through the private market, taking into consideration both the health care needs and the affordability concerns of the eligible population;

(4) determine an appropriate annual family contribution level or premium for the product developed under item (3) of this subsection;

(5) document and consider the number of employers that offer dependent coverage to employees and the average cost of that coverage to both employers and employees;

(6) with regard to employer sponsored health benefit plans, determine an appropriate employer contribution toward the cost of providing dependent coverage to eligible families; and

(7) develop a plan to foster the enrollment of the children of eligible State employees, including contractual employees of the State of Maryland in the program established under § 15-301 of the Health - General Article and any expansion of that program.

(c) The Department may delegate to the Health Care Access and Cost Commission the authority to develop a health insurance benefit package in accordance with subsection (b)(3) of this section.

(d) The Department shall report on the result of its study and its recommendations in an interim report no later than September 1, 1999, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, a final report to the House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Finance Committee no later than December 1, 1999.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1999.

Approved May 13, 1999.

CHAPTER 382

(Senate Bill 740)

AN ACT concerning

~~Nursing Facilities - Licensure Requirements - Staffing~~
Nursing Facilities - Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Reserved Beds
- Task Force on Quality of Care in Nursing Facilities - Nursing Home
Comparative Evaluation System

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring nursing facilities to meet certain staffing requirements~~