

Hygiene to chair the Task Force and establish certain subcommittees; providing for the duties of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to make certain recommendations; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide staff support to the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to make certain reports to the Governor and General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing that members of the Task Force are entitled to a certain reimbursement; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force on Health Care Access and Reimbursement.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 19-710.3

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Maryland has a national reputation as a leader in health care; and

WHEREAS, It has always been a high priority of State government to implement policies to encourage affordable and quality health care for all Marylanders; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's commitment to affordable quality health care is now threatened by growing numbers of uninsured and underinsured citizens and by shortages of physicians and other health care providers; and

WHEREAS, Some data suggests that Maryland ranks nationally in the lowest 25th percentile for reimbursement payments to doctors and health care providers; and

WHEREAS, Other data suggests that Maryland is a high expense state for most medical practices expenses; and

WHEREAS, There has been a significant increase in uncompensated and undercompensated care provided by physicians and other health care providers; and

WHEREAS, Providing physicians and other health care providers with reasonable and fair reimbursement compared with other states would be a catalyst for preventing the present decline in health care in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, It is important to have a State-sanctioned study of physician and health care provider reimbursement to avoid antitrust issues; and

WHEREAS, A study focused on provider reimbursement trends in Maryland will coordinate with the collaborative work currently underway by a number of health