

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

Article - Commercial Law

Section 13-4A-01 through 13-4A-03, inclusive, and the subtitle "Subtitle 4A. Health Education and Advocacy Unit"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1983 Replacement Volume and 1989 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Chapter 296 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1986

Section 3

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Chapter 565 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1986, as amended by Chapter 5 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1989

Section 3

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Commercial Law**

**Subtitle 4A. Health Education and Advocacy Unit**

13-4A-01.

There is a Health Education and Advocacy Unit in the Division.

13-4A-02.

(a) The Unit may implement an educational and advocacy program designed to:

(1) Enable health care consumers to make more informed choices in the health marketplace, and to be able to participate in decisions concerning their health care; and

(2) Otherwise promote the interest of health consumers in the health marketplace.

(b) (1) The Unit may assist health care consumers in understanding their health care bills and third party coverage, in identifying improper billing or coverage determinations, and in reporting any billing or coverage problems to appropriate entities, including the Division, the Attorney General or other governmental agencies, insurers, or providers.

(2) Whenever any billing or coverage question concerns the adequacy or propriety of any services or treatment, the Unit shall refer the matter to an appropriate professional, licensing, or disciplinary body, as applicable. The Unit may monitor the progress of the concerns raised by health consumers through such referrals.

(3) Whenever any billing or coverage question concerns a matter within the jurisdiction of the Insurance Commissioner, the Unit shall refer the matter to the