

circumstances; requiring the Commission to collect certain information and data; requiring the Office to publish annually a certain report card in collaboration with the Commission and in a certain manner; requiring the Commission to perform certain duties in consultation with certain organizations; and generally relating to the Maryland Health Care Commission and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, racial and ethnic variations, and health care disparities policy report cards.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 19-134(c) through (e) and 20-1004

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 19-134(f) and (g)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

#### Preamble

WHEREAS, The 2002 Institute of Medicine report “Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Barriers in Health Care” underscores the existence of disparities in health care even when insurance status, income, age, and severity of condition are comparable; and

WHEREAS, Recent studies in the New England Journal of Medicine indicate growing disparities between African American and white Medicare enrollees in the treatment of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, Research indicates tracking the type of care a patient receives can provide an incentive for providers to improve performance and narrow the racial gap over time; now, therefore,

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

#### Article – Health – General

19-134.

(c) (1) The Commission shall:

(i) Establish and implement a system to comparatively evaluate the quality of care outcomes and performance measurements of health maintenance organization benefit plans and services on an objective basis; and

(ii) Annually publish the summary findings of the evaluation.