

and report the results of the study and recommendations to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the House Committee on Ways and Means, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, by October 1, 2005.

SECTION 31. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding § 7-402(c) of the Transportation Article or any other provision of law, during calendar year 2005 only, the Department of Transportation may process a budget amendment for the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 in federal funds for the purpose of completing a final environmental impact statement on a magnetic levitation (MAGLEV) system. No additional federal funds may be expended for any other purpose related to the study, development, or construction of a MAGLEV system.

SECTION 32. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, before submitting regulations to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review to alter managed care organization capitation payments to reflect the across-the-board payment reduction assumed in the fiscal 2006 budget, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall submit an actuarial certification of the sufficiency of the revised rates to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 33. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services, the Maryland Hospital Association, the academic health centers, the Health Services Cost Review Commission, and the Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs), study the impact of using academic health centers on the HealthChoice program.

(b) The study shall:

(1) determine whether there are financial disincentives regarding use of academic health centers or their affiliated hospital-based clinics;

(2) examine whether the State should continue to assure access to academic health center clinics; and

(3) consider the current relationships between MCOs and the academic health centers and their affiliates.

(c) On or before July 1, 2005, the Department shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on its findings and recommendations.

(d) The report should include:

(1) an analysis of the potential implications of implementing a reimbursement methodology for hospital-based clinics affiliated with academic health