

(i) two representatives of health maintenance organizations in the State;

(ii) one representative of a nonprofit health service plan in the State; and

(iii) one representative of a health insurer in the State;

(3) five physicians appointed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, including:

(i) two endocrinologists or internists with special expertise in bariatric medicine; and

(ii) one bariatric surgeon;

(4) one consumer, appointed by the Maryland Weight Loss Surgery Legislative Action Committee; and

(5) one representative of the Maryland Health Care Commission.

(c) The members of the Task Force shall appoint a chairman from among their members.

(d) A member of the Task Force is not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

(e) The Task Force shall:

(1) review the [utilization review procedures currently used by health insurance carriers that provide surgical treatment for morbid obesity under § 15-839 of the Insurance Article] LITERATURE ON THE SURGICAL TREATMENT OF MORBID OBESITY; AND

(2) [review the National Institutes of Health guidelines and any other nationally recognized guidelines or criteria for the surgical treatment of morbid obesity; and

(3)] recommend a set of guidelines or criteria that are appropriate for the utilization review of the surgical treatment of morbid obesity, and reasonable procedures for documenting patient compliance with the guidelines or criteria.

(f) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee on or before December 1, [2004] 2007.

(G) THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION AND THE MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE THE STAFFING FOR THE TASK FORCE.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 15, 2004 AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, the Maryland Insurance Administration shall report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee,