

termination--date altering the rate at which certain health insurance policies are required to provide benefits for the treatment of acute mental illnesses and emotional disorders; providing for the application of this Act in a certain manner; and providing a termination date for this Act.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 48A - Insurance Code
Section 354D(a), 470E(a), and 477E(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1979 Replacement Volume and 1985 Supplement)

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

Article 48A - Insurance Code

354D.

(a) Every hospital or major medical contract or certificate delivered or issued for delivery, within this State by a nonprofit health service organization, including both individual policies and group policies, must include benefits for expenses arising from treatment of acute mental illnesses and emotional disorders which in the professional judgment of practitioners are subject to significant improvement through short-term therapy. These benefits must be at least equal to the following minimum requirements: (1) with respect to benefits for confinement as an inpatient in a hospital, the period of confinement for which benefits are payable shall be at least 30 days in any calendar year or benefit period; (2) with respect to major medical expense coverage, benefits, after the applicable deductible, for covered expenses arising from all those services, other than inpatient, which are rendered to treat acute mental illness and emotional disorders, shall be ~~f~~at a rate which is not less than 65 PERCENT FOR THE FIRST 15 VISITS PER YEAR CALENDAR YEAR OR BENEFIT PERIOD AND NOT LESS THAN 50 PERCENT FOR ANY VISITS THEREAFTER FOR THAT YEAR CALENDAR YEAR OR BENEFIT PERIOD. ~~of f~~ ~~EQUIVALENT TO~~ the benefits which the policy provides for other types of illness.

470E.

(a) Every individual hospital or major medical insurance policy written on an expense incurred basis which is delivered or issued for delivery, within this State must include benefits for expenses arising from treatment of acute mental illnesses and emotional disorders which in the professional judgment of practitioners are subject to significant improvement through short-term therapy. These benefits must be at least equal to the following minimum requirements: (1) with respect to benefits for confinement as an inpatient in a hospital, the period of confinement for which benefits are payable shall be at least 30 days in any calendar year or benefit period; (2) with respect to