

VETOES

Senate Bill No. 658

AN ACT concerning

Health Care Utilization Review - Private Review Agents

FOR the purpose of requiring that a private review agent or health maintenance organization be certified by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene before the agent or health maintenance organization may conduct utilization review; requiring certain health plans or insurers proposing to issue a certain policy, contract, or program to meet the requirements of this Act; defining certain terms; requiring an applicant for certification or renewal to comply with certain procedures adopted by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; authorizing the Secretary to adopt regulations after consulting with certain persons; authorizing the Insurance Commissioner to issue or renew a certificate under certain circumstances; ~~authorizing the Secretary to delegate to the Insurance Commissioner the authority to issue certain certification;~~ providing that a certificate is not transferable; requiring an applicant for certification to submit a utilization review plan; providing for the contents of the plan; requiring that certain materials be provided the Department; providing for the term of a certification and a procedure for its renewal; requiring the Department to deny an application for renewal under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department to revoke a certification under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department to reprimand a certification holder or to revoke the certification under certain circumstances; authorizing certain persons to take a direct judicial appeal from a final decision of the Secretary; authorizing the Department to waive the requirements of this Act for certain private review agents; requiring the Department to periodically provide a list of private review agents to certain persons; prohibiting a private review agent from disclosing or publishing certain medical records or certain confidential medical information; providing certain criminal penalties for violation of this Act; requiring a certain annual report; providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to the certification of private review agents and health maintenance organizations conducting utilization review.

BY adding to

Article 48A - Insurance Code
Section 354HH, 370 470Y, and 477-II
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1986 Replacement Volume and 1987 Supplement)