

WHEREAS, Insurers and nonprofit health service plans have implemented benefit plans generally covering no more than 24 hours of postpartum stay in a hospital, despite little or no scientific support for the efficacy and safety of this policy for the general population; and

WHEREAS, The "Guidelines for Perinatal Care", published by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, recommend a hospital stay of 48 hours after childbirth; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly to maximize the prevention of PKU and other hereditary and congenital disorders; now, therefore,

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

**Article 48A - Insurance Code**

354KK.

(a) In this section, "child wellness services" means a preventive activity designed to:

- (1) Protect children from morbidity and mortality; and
- (2) Promote child development.

(b) The provisions of this section apply to a nonprofit health service plan that:

- (1) Is written on an expense incurred basis;
- (2) Provides coverage for a family member of the insured; and
- (3) Is delivered or issued for delivery in the State.

(c) (1) A nonprofit health service plan shall include under the family member coverage a minimum package of child wellness services that are consistent with:

- (i) Public health policy;
- (ii) Professional standards; and
- (iii) Scientific evidence of effectiveness.

(2) A child wellness services package required under this subsection shall cover at least:

(i) All visits for and costs of childhood and adolescent immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control;

(ii) Visits for the collection of adequate samples for hereditary and metabolic newborn screening and follow-up between birth and 4 weeks of age, the first of which to be collected before 2 weeks of age;