

(1) Whether there is an underserved population of medically indigent individuals who are categorically eligible for Medical Assistance benefits, including:

(i) The geographical area of the underserved population;

(ii) The reasons why the population is underserved; and

(iii) The type and number of health care practitioners needed to meet the needs of the underserved population; and

(2) The number of health care practitioners who currently voluntarily agree to participate in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, including:

(i) The type and geographic area of the participating health care practitioners; and

(ii) An evaluation of what incentives are needed, if any, to encourage increased voluntary participation in the shortage areas;

(c) The study shall also include an evaluation, if needed, of the possible positive and negative impact on the State if all health care practitioners are required to participate in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program as a condition of licensure or certification; and

(d) On or before December 15, 1995, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall submit a report of the findings of the study and any recommendations to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee.

SECTION 3. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Governor's Task Force on Community Health Networks shall study the impact, growth, and formation of health care delivery networks, including information on:

(1) ~~the~~ The impact of health care networks on the delivery of health care services in the State;

(2) ~~the~~ The availability and affordability of health care services to Maryland residents through these integrated health care delivery systems;

(3) ~~the~~ The appropriate level of State regulation of health care delivery networks;

(4) ~~the~~ The accountability of health care delivery networks to the communities in which they are located;

(5) ~~the~~ The necessary capitalization and surplus requirements to ensure the financial solvency of these health care delivery systems;

(6) ~~the~~ The standards necessary to ensure that health care delivery networks:

(i) ~~enroll~~ Enroll individuals who are broadly representative of the various age, social, and income groups within its regional service area; and