

indirectly, from funds of the State, whether appropriated or unappropriated. No part of the fund may consist of real property, in kind contributions, or funds expended prior to the effective date of this Act. In case of any dispute as to the amount of the matching fund or what money or assets may qualify as matching funds, the Board of Public Works shall determine the matter and the Board's decision is final. The grantee has until June 1, 1998, to present evidence satisfactory to the Board of Public Works that a matching fund will be provided. If satisfactory evidence is presented, the Board shall certify this fact and the amount of the matching fund to the State Treasurer, and the proceeds of the loan equal to the amount of the matching fund shall be expended for the purposes provided in this Act. Any amount of the loan in excess of the amount of the matching fund certified by the Board of Public Works shall be canceled and be of no further effect.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1996.

Approved April 30, 1996.

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**CHAPTER 288**

**(House Bill 957)**

AN ACT concerning

**Health Insurance – Small Group Market – Rates**

FOR the purpose of eliminating a certain charge in allowable rate adjustments in the comprehensive standard health benefit plan; altering the content of a certain report to be prepared by the Insurance Commissioner and the Health Care Access and Cost Commission; ~~and clarifying the date when certain provisions of the Maryland Health Insurance Reform Act are applicable to certain self-employed individuals~~ clarifying the applicability of the Maryland Health Insurance Reform Act to the renewal of certain health benefit plans issued by certain insurers; altering the date on which the report is due; and generally relating to health insurance in the small employer market.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article 48A – Insurance Code  
 Section 702  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Chapter 501 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1995  
Section 4

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