

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

Approved May 14, 1996.

---

**CHAPTER 548**

**(House Bill 1374)**

AN ACT concerning

**Health Care Provider and Payor Act of 1996**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain insurers and health maintenance organizations from prohibiting health care practitioners from disclosing or communicating certain information to enrollees, subscribers, and certain other persons under certain circumstances; prohibiting insurers and health maintenance organizations from requiring health care providers to indemnify or hold harmless the insurer or health maintenance organization from any liability arising from a coverage decision or negligent act by the insurer or health maintenance organization under certain circumstances; requiring health maintenance organizations that use a certain practice profile to evaluate a provider under contract with the health maintenance organization to disclose to the provider certain information concerning the practice profile prior to taking a certain action against the provider; prohibiting certain insurers and health maintenance organizations from withholding certain reimbursements regardless of the method of reimbursement used by the insurer or health maintenance organization; altering a certain provision of law related to developing certain forms to require that a certain study be performed by certain persons related to the feasibility of a certain uniform voucher form; making a certain technical correction; establishing a certain study group to evaluate the use and effectiveness of certain patient and provider grievance appeal procedures; requiring the study group to make a certain report by a certain date; providing for the application of certain provisions of this Act to health maintenance organizations; defining certain terms; providing for the effective date of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to certain insurers and health maintenance organizations.

BY adding to

Article 48A – Insurance Code  
Section 354RR, 470HH, 477RR, and 490FF  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1994 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 48A – Insurance Code  
Section 490DD  
Annotated Code of Maryland