

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 624.

This bill allows health care providers to disclose or communicate certain information to enrollees or subscribers and providers under certain circumstances. The bill also creates a Task Force to Study Patient and Provider Appeal and Grievance Mechanisms.

House Bill 1374, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 14, 1996, accomplishes the same purpose except that the composition of the task force in this bill is more limited than the composition in House Bill 1374. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 624.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Senate Bill No. 624

AN ACT concerning

~~Health Care Provider and Payor Communications Act~~ **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 ~~or~~ 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 ~~made~~ or negligent act by the insurer or health maintenance organization under certain circumstances; requiring health maintenance organizations that use a certain ~~economic~~ practice profile to evaluate a provider under contract with the health maintenance organization to disclose to the provider certain information concerning the ~~economic~~ 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