

CHAPTER 217

(House Bill 155)

AN ACT concerning

Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Education Act

FOR the purpose of requiring certain coverage for certain individuals for reimbursement for a certain procedure used to identify bone mass or detect bone loss for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis; requiring certain health maintenance organizations, nonprofit health service plans, and health insurers to identify and use certain materials for certain purposes; providing for the application of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to requiring certain health maintenance organizations, nonprofit health service plans, and health insurers to provide certain coverage for certain individuals for a certain procedure used to identify bone mass or detect bone loss for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 19-706(n)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Insurance

Section 15-822

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1995 Volume and 1996 Supplement)

(As enacted by Chapter ____ (H.B. 11) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1997)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, 25 million Americans are stricken with osteoporosis – a preventable disorder that occurs most frequently among older people, causing loss of bone mass; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Experts estimate that, in the United States, one in two women and one in five men will suffer a bone fracture because of osteoporosis; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Nationally, osteoporosis results in 1.5 million fractures of the hip, spine, wrist, and other bones, with a cost of at least \$18 million in health care and associated expenses; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Osteoporosis progresses silently and in most cases goes undiagnosed until a fracture occurs; once a fracture occurs, the disease is already advanced, and the likelihood is high that another fracture will occur; and~~