

~~WHEREAS, Because osteoporosis progresses silently and currently has no cure, prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment are key to reducing the prevalence and devastation of this disease; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Medical experts agree that osteoporosis is preventable and treatable, however, once the disease progresses to the point of fracture its associated consequences often lead to disability and institutionalization, and exact a heavy toll on quality of life; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Given the current national focus on health care reform and reducing unnecessary health care expenditures through the use of health promotion/disease prevention programs, mandating coverage of services, such as bone mass measurement, related to prevention, early diagnosis, and timely treatment of osteoporosis is a cost-effective approach for states to embrace; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Bone mass measurement is a reliable way to detect the presence of low bone mass and to ascertain the extent of bone loss to help assess an individual's risk for fracture, and this aids in selecting appropriate therapies and interventions; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Ordinary X rays are not sensitive enough to detect osteoporosis until 25% to 40% of bone mass has been lost and the disease is far advanced; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Currently available technologies for bone mass measurement include: single and dual-photon absorptiometry, single and dual-energy X ray absorptiometry, quantitative computed tomography, and radiographic absorptiometry; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Other technologies for measuring bone mass are under investigation and may become scientifically proven technologies in the future; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Scientifically proven technologies for bone mass measurement and other services related to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis can be used effectively to reduce the pain and financial burden that osteoporosis inflicts upon its victims; now, therefore,~~

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

Article - Health - General

19-706.

(N) THE PROVISIONS OF § 15-822 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE SHALL APPLY TO HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

Article - Insurance

15-822.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.