

(3) POLICIES OR CERTIFICATES FOR HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL BENEFITS ISSUED THROUGH A PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATION, COEMPLOYER, OR OTHER ORGANIZATION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CARRIER, HAVE A COMMON RENEWAL DATE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Health Care Access and Cost Commission, in conjunction with the Maryland Insurance Administration, shall conduct a study of ways to reduce administrative overhead associated with health insurance for small employers that lease employees from a professional employer organization, coemployer, or other organization engaged in employee leasing.

(b) The study shall include the feasibility and desirability of a common small group policy for such employers.

(c) The Commission shall report the results of its study, in accordance with § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee by November 1, 1997.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of September 30, 1998, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved May 8, 1997.

CHAPTER 421

(House Bill 240)

AN ACT concerning

Controlled Dangerous Substances – Marijuana – Penalties

FOR the purpose of altering a prohibition against bringing a certain quantity of marijuana into the State; making a separate offense of bringing into the State a certain amount of marijuana under certain circumstances; providing certain penalties; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to the penalties for offenses involving the possession of marijuana.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments

Section 286A

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume)

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