

(2) Involve the private health insurance market in the delivery of health insurance coverage [in accordance with subsection (b) of this section] TO LOW-INCOME, UNINSURED CHILDREN IN THE STATE AND THEIR FAMILIES;

(3) Identify and aggressively pursue a mix of State, federal, and private funds, including grants, to enable the Foundation to provide and fund health care insurance coverage [in accordance with subsection (b) of this section];

(4) Develop methods to minimize the effect of employers or employees terminating employer sponsored health insurance or privately purchased health care insurance; and

(5) Coordinate its activities with the other necessary entities in order to address the health care needs of the low-income, uninsured children of the State and their families.

[(b) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the Maryland Insurance Administration, the Health Care Access and Cost Commission, the Foundation, the business community, and the health care insurance industry shall:

(1) Conduct a study to determine the feasibility and cost effectiveness of providing health insurance coverage through the private market to uninsured children and their families, and in particular to those individuals with a family income between 185 percent of the federal poverty level and 200 percent of the federal poverty level, as part of the Program established under § 15-301 of this subtitle; and

(2) Recommend programs to provide health insurance coverage through the private market to uninsured children and their families that would qualify for the enhanced federal match provided for under Title XXI of the Social Security Act as part of the Program established under § 15-301 of this subtitle.

(c) The Department shall report on the result of its study and its recommendations to the Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, on or before December 1, 1998 and each December 1 thereafter.]

Chapter 110 of the Acts of 1998

[SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall submit to the federal Health Care Financing Administration a State plan to implement the Children and Families Health Care Program established under § 15-301 of the Health - General Article. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 15-301 of the Health - General Article, the Department shall not be required to include a description of the use of employer sponsored health benefit plans, individual health benefit plans, or family contribution amount requirements in the State plan that the Department submits to the federal Health Care Financing Administration. However, the Department shall submit to the federal Health Care Financing Administration a proposed amendment to the State plan to include the use of employer sponsored health benefit plans and individual health benefit plans for individuals with a family income above 185 percent of the