

CHAPTER 697

(House Bill 1210)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Quality Assurance Unit - Quality Assurance Medical Director

FOR the purpose of establishing a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Quality Assurance Unit in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; requiring that the Secretary appoint a Quality Assurance Medical Director for the Unit; requiring that the Quality Assurance Medical Director be a physician who is licensed in the State and establishing certain other qualifications for the Quality Assurance Medical Director; ~~establishing a term of office for the Quality Assurance Medical Director; authorizing the Secretary to remove the Quality Assurance Medical Director under certain circumstances;~~ requiring the HMO Quality Assurance Unit to investigate quality of care complaints referred from the Insurance Commissioner and enforce certain other statutory and regulatory requirements relating to the quality of health care provided by health maintenance organizations; requiring the Quality Assurance Medical Director to determine whether a health maintenance organization meets certain statutory and regulatory requirements relating to the quality of health care provided by a health maintenance organization and make recommendations for corrective ~~changes or new arrangements~~ *action necessary* to meet these requirements; authorizing the Secretary to take certain action under certain circumstances; authorizing the Insurance Commissioner to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the certificate of the medical director of a health maintenance organization under certain circumstances; repealing the authority of the Secretary to send a written directive to the Insurance Commissioner directing the Insurance Commissioner to take certain actions; authorizing the Insurance Commissioner to impose certain penalties on a health maintenance organization under certain circumstances; requiring the Insurance Commissioner to give certain notice to the Secretary under certain circumstances; repealing provisions that require the Insurance Commissioner to give certain notice to a health maintenance organization and hold a hearing before taking certain actions; authorizing the Secretary to issue certain orders and impose certain penalties under certain circumstances; requiring the Secretary to give certain notice to the Insurance Commissioner under certain circumstances; providing that an aggrieved party is entitled to certain rights of appeal if the Secretary takes certain action; ~~making certain appeal provisions inapplicable to a certain order issued by the Insurance Commissioner at the request of the Secretary;~~ defining certain terms; making certain conforming changes; and generally relating to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and health maintenance organizations.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Health - General

Section 19-702(b)(3), 19-705.2, and 19-729