

**CHAPTER 698**

**(House Bill 1216)**

AN ACT concerning

**Health Insurance - Assignment, Transfer, or Subcontracting of Health Care Providers' Contracts**

FOR the purpose of clarifying that a carrier may not impair the contract or employment of a health care provider with the carrier on the basis that the health care provider refused to participate in a contract to provide care for an insurer that offers personal injury protection; and generally relating to health care provider contracts with carriers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Insurance

Section 15-125

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

**Article - Insurance**

15-125.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (i) "Carrier" means:

1. an insurer;
2. a nonprofit health service plan;
3. a health maintenance organization;
4. a dental plan organization; or

5. any other person that provides health benefit plans subject to regulation by the State.

(ii) "Carrier" includes an entity that arranges a provider panel for a carrier.

(3) "Contract" means the implied or express agreement between a health care provider and carrier, including the rights, obligations, and fee schedule for the provision of health care services.

(4) "Health care provider" means an individual who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under the Health Occupations Article to provide health care services.