

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 91 – Maryland Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act – Market Reforms.

This bill conforms Maryland law with federal law as it relates to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The bill also makes certain technical corrections relating to group health plans.

Senate Bill 53, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on April 25, 2000, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 91.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

House Bill No. 91

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act – Market Reforms

FOR the purpose of establishing certain market reforms consistent with the provisions of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; repealing the provision allowing a certain health benefit plan that does not use a preexisting condition provision to impose a certain waiting period or surcharge on enrollees; requiring certain carriers to provide a special enrollment period; allowing certain employees and dependents to enroll for coverage during a special enrollment period under certain conditions; altering when a certain carrier may cancel or refuse to renew a certain health benefit plan; requiring certain notice to be sent when a certain carrier elects not to renew a certain health benefit plan; defining certain terms; altering certain terms; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to the Maryland Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Insurance

Section 15–1201, 15–1208, 15–1212, 15–1301(h), 15–1401(p), and 15–1406

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Insurance

Section 15–1208.1 and 15–1406.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Volume and 1999 Supplement)