

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

**Article - Insurance**

15-1201.

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

(b) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Pool established under § 15-1216 of this subtitle.

(c) "Carrier" means a person that:

(1) offers health benefit plans in the State covering eligible employees of small employers; and

(2) is:

(i) an authorized insurer that provides health insurance in the State;

(ii) a nonprofit health service plan that is licensed to operate in the State;

(iii) a health maintenance organization that is licensed to operate in the State; or

(iv) any other person or organization that provides health benefit plans subject to State insurance regulation.

(d) "Commission" means the Maryland Health Care Commission established under Title 19, Subtitle 1 of the Health - General Article.

(e) (1) "Eligible employee" means:

(i) an individual who:

1. is an employee, sole proprietor, self-employed individual, partner of a partnership, or independent contractor who is included as an employee under a health benefit plan; and

2. works on a full-time basis and has a normal workweek of at least 30 hours; or

(ii) a sole employee of a nonprofit organization that has been determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3), (4), or (6) of the Internal Revenue Code who:

1. has a normal workweek of at least 20 hours; and

2. is not covered under a public or private plan for health insurance or other health benefit arrangement.

(2) "Eligible employee" does not include an individual who works: