

(2) In addition to the information required under paragraph of this subsection, the Commission may publish any other information that the Commission deems appropriate.

(f) The Commission may establish health care cost annual adjustment goals for the cost of health care services and may establish the total cost of health care services by code to be rendered by a specialty group of health care practitioners designated by the Commission during a 12-month period.

(g) In developing a health care cost annual adjustment goal under subsection (f) of this section, the Commission shall:

(1) Consult with appropriate health care practitioners, payors, the Association of Maryland Hospitals and Health Systems, the Health Services Cost Review Commission, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Department of Business and Economic Development; and

(2) Take into consideration:

(i) The input costs and other underlying factors that contribute to the rising cost of health care in the State and in the United States;

(ii) The resources necessary for the delivery of quality health care;

(iii) The additional costs associated with aging populations and new technology;

(iv) The potential impacts of federal laws on health care costs; and

(v) The savings associated with the implementation of modified practice patterns.

(h) Nothing in this section shall have the effect of impairing the ability of a health maintenance organization to contract with health care practitioners or any other individual under mutually agreed upon terms and conditions.

(i) A professional organization or society that performs activities in good faith in furtherance of the purposes of this section is not subject to criminal or civil liability under the Maryland Anti-Trust Act for those activities.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 19-137 through 19-139, respectively, of Article - Health - General of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 19-136 through 19-138, respectively.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

May 18, 2000

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
Speaker of the House