CHAPTER 388

(Senate Bill 457)

AN ACT concerning

Health Insurance – Study of Maryland's Small Group Market

FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~Department of Budget and Management to issue a certain request for proposal for~~ Maryland Health Care Commission to contract with an independent consultant to conduct a certain study in a certain manner; ~~providing for the funding of the study;~~ specifying the scope of the study; requiring the ~~independent consultant contracted by the Department to conclude its report by a certain date, to~~ Commission to provide a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly by a certain date in a certain manner~~, and to provide a copy of the report to certain entities~~; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a study of Maryland's small group health insurance market.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

~~(a) the Department of Budget and Management shall issue a request for proposal that outlines the requirements and details of a contract for an independent consultant to study Maryland's small group health insurance market;~~

~~(b) funding for the study, not to exceed $75,000, shall be included in the State budget for fiscal 2002;~~

(a) the Maryland Health Care Commission shall:

(1) contract with an independent consultant to conduct a study comparing the performance of Maryland's small group health insurance market reform law to other states; and

(2) instruct the independent consultant to meet with and to provide periodic updates to an independent advisory committee comprised of small employers participating in the small group market, small employers who do not purchase group health insurance, insurers providing coverage in Maryland in the small group market, insurers not participating in the small group market in Maryland, health maintenance organizations, and agents and brokers selling in the small group market;

~~(c)~~ (b) the study shall include:

(1) an analysis ~~of:~~

~~(i) the benefits offered under Maryland's comprehensive standard health benefit plan~~, including a comparative analysis of the benefits of similar coverage offered in other states, of the benefits offered under Maryland's comprehensive standard health benefit plan, excluding benefits additional to the standard plan;