

INFORMATION REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF SUBSTANTIAL, AVAILABLE, AND AFFORDABLE COVERAGE IN THE FORM AND MANNER REQUIRED BY THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER THROUGH REGULATION.

(2) THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER SHALL:

(I) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

(II) DEVELOP A MECHANISM TO PROVIDE VERBALLY, IN WRITING, OR BY ELECTRONIC MEANS, INFORMATION TO INDIVIDUALS, ON REQUEST, ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF SUBSTANTIAL, AVAILABLE, AND AFFORDABLE COVERAGE.

(D) NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, EACH CARRIER THAT OFFERS SUBSTANTIAL, AVAILABLE, AND AFFORDABLE COVERAGE IN THE NONGROUP MARKET SHALL NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER IN WRITING OF THE TIME PERIODS IN THAT CALENDAR YEAR DURING WHICH THE CARRIER WILL OFFER ITS SUBSTANTIAL, AVAILABLE, AND AFFORDABLE COVERAGE PLAN ON AN OPEN ENROLLMENT BASIS.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, 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 substantial, available, and affordable coverage program;~~

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

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

~~(1) an analysis of:~~

~~(i) the benefits offered in the substantial, available, and affordable coverage program by type of policy;~~

~~(ii) the pricing of products in the substantial, available, and affordable coverage program and the relationship of pricing to the benefits offered;~~

~~(iii) the relationship between averted uncompensated care costs, medical losses sustained under the substantial, available, and affordable coverage program, and the purchaser differential granted to participating carriers; and~~

~~(iv) the mechanisms for coverage offered to high risk individuals in other states, including high risk pools and reinsurance programs; and~~

~~(2) recommendations for changes to Maryland's substantial, available, and affordable coverage program to make coverage more affordable and accessible to high risk individuals in Maryland; and~~

~~(d) the independent consultant contracted by the Department shall:~~

~~(1) conclude its report on or before November 1, 2001;~~