

For the above reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 473.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

House Bill No. 473

AN ACT concerning

Health Maintenance Organizations – Patient Access to Choice of Provider

FOR the purpose of altering certain standards of care for health maintenance organizations to make them apply to services of nurse practitioners in addition to physicians; requiring health maintenance organizations to allow for the designation by a member or subscriber of a nurse practitioner as a primary care provider; requiring a health maintenance organization to individually credential a nurse practitioner under certain circumstances; requiring that the number of nurse practitioners on the health maintenance organization's panel of providers may not exceed a certain amount; providing that this Act does not limit a member's or subscriber's selection of providers from those made available on the health maintenance organization's panel of providers; prohibiting a health maintenance organization from limiting to nurse practitioners the choice of a provider by subscribers and members; providing that health maintenance organizations are not required to include nurse practitioners on the panel of providers; requiring the State Board of Nursing to create and maintain an individual profile on each nurse practitioner certified by the Board; providing for the contents of the profile; requiring the Board to make the profiles available on written request and on the Internet; requiring the Board to make available to each licensee the licensee's profile; requiring the Board to provide a reasonable period to correct factual inaccuracies in the profile; providing that the availability of the profile does not otherwise limit the Board's authority to disclose information otherwise legally required to be disclosed; altering a definition; and generally relating to health maintenance organizations and nurse practitioners.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 19-701(a), (h), and (i)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 19-701(f), 19-705.1(b), and 19-729

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume)