

the associate judges of the Orphans' Court for Baltimore City shall take effect at the beginning of the next following term of office.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.

May 16, 2002

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
State House  
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed Senate Bill 888 – Health Insurance – Small Group – Open Enrollment Period.

This bill changes the frequency of open enrollment periods offered to self-employed individuals in the small group market. A health insurer, nonprofit health service plan or HMO (carrier) that offers coverage to a small employer must establish one annual open enrollment period for self-employed individuals in each 12-month period, rather than in each 6-month period as currently required. In addition, the bill repeals the provision that a carrier may deny coverage to a self-employed individual who applies for a health benefit plan at a time other than the carrier's annual open enrollment period.

House Bill 1427, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 888.

Sincerely,  
Parris N. Glendening  
Governor

**Senate Bill No. 888**

AN ACT concerning

**Health Insurance – Small Group – Open Enrollment Period**

FOR the purpose of altering the open enrollment period for certain health insurance; repealing a certain provision allowing certain carriers to deny coverage to self-employed individuals who apply for a health benefit plan at times other than the carrier's open enrollment period; and generally relating to the small group health insurance open enrollment period.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Insurance  
Section 15-1210(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland