

service plans must provide the inclusion of preferred and nonpreferred providers as an optional benefit, and they must disclose the availability of this option.

House Bill 579, 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 427.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Senate Bill 427

AN ACT concerning

Health Insurance – Authorization of Additional Products and Small Group Administrative Discounts and Study

FOR the purpose of ~~making certain provisions of this Act applicable to health maintenance organizations; providing that certain insurance policies may provide for payment of services rendered by certain providers; requiring an insurer to establish payment in a certain manner under certain circumstances; requiring a certain policy to allow direct access to specialists; providing that the Maryland Insurance Commissioner may authorize certain health insurance carriers to offer a preferred provider insurance policy that conditions the payment of benefits on the use of preferred providers if the health insurance carrier meets certain requirements; requiring certain insurers and nonprofit health service plans to offer an option to include preferred and nonpreferred providers as an additional benefit under certain circumstances; requiring certain insurers and nonprofit health service plans to provide certain disclosures under certain circumstances; authorizing certain entities to require a certain individual to pay a certain premium under certain circumstances; providing that certain provisions of law do not apply to a small employer under certain circumstances; requiring a small employer to provide a certain certification under certain circumstances; authorizing a health insurance carrier to offer a certain plan under certain circumstances; requiring certain carriers that use a provider panel and offer a certain preferred provider insurance policy to adhere to certain standards; authorizing a carrier to offer a certain administrative discount to a small employer under certain circumstances; providing for the intent of the General Assembly; authorizing a carrier to offer a certain policy to certain employees; specifying what a certain policy may exclude providing that a limited benefit group health insurance contract may be issued only by an insurer or nonprofit health service plan to an~~