

WHEREAS, A forum comprised of legislators from different committees would provide the opportunity for dialogue between the standing committees with diverse jurisdictions impacting on the health care system; and

WHEREAS, The forum would provide the General Assembly with the flexibility necessary to consider and study emerging issues relating to health care in a timely manner; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – State Government

[2-10A-02.

(a) There is a Joint Committee on Health Care Cost Containment.

(b) (1) The Committee consists of 10 members.

(2) Of the 10 members:

(i) 5 shall be members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; and

(ii) 5 shall be members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House.

(c) The members of the Committee serve at the pleasure of the presiding officer who appointed them.

(d) The President and the Speaker shall jointly appoint a Senator and a Delegate each to serve as Cochairman.

(e) The Department of Legislative Reference and the Department of Fiscal Services shall provide staff assistance to the Committee.

(f) The Committee may consider and review any issues relating to:

(1) the Health Resources Planning Commission;

(2) the Health Services Cost Review Commission;

(3) the certificate of need process;

(4) the State health plan;

(5) institution specific studies; and

(6) any other issues relating to health care cost containment.

(g) The Committee shall submit an annual report to the General Assembly on or before January 1 of each year.]