

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 2-10A-05
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1984 Volume and 1991 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Joint Committee on Health Care Cost Containment and the Joint Committee on the Medical Assistance Program have each done exemplary work in their respective areas; and

WHEREAS, Economic conditions now require a broader and more comprehensive approach to health care delivery in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The State's ability to continue funding the Medical Assistance Program is being jeopardized by the combination of new federal mandates and increased program enrollment due to the recession; and

WHEREAS, 1 of every 10 persons in Maryland is now in the Medicaid Program; and

WHEREAS, More than 500,000 Marylanders have no health benefits of any kind; and

WHEREAS, More than half of these uninsured Marylanders are employed full-time, earning in excess of \$20,000, with the majority working in businesses with fewer than 50 employees; and

WHEREAS, Recent budget reductions have necessitated the elimination of coverage of hospital care for the General Public Assistance population; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's unique all payor system has provided unparalleled access to hospital care for all Marylanders but may become overly stressed by the increasing levels of uncompensated care; and

WHEREAS, There is agreement among both payors and providers that maintaining Maryland's Medicare waiver should be one of our highest priorities; and

WHEREAS, It is critical that we understand the relationship between health care cost, quality, and access and develop a strategy to maximize our health care resources; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly needs a forum to comprehensively consider and study the entire health care delivery and financing system in Maryland; and

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