

CHAPTER 110

(Senate Bill 85)

AN ACT concerning

~~Maryland Children's Health Program~~
Children and Families First Health Care Act of 1998

~~FOR the purpose of requiring the Medical Assistance Program to provide certain services to certain minors and other individuals who meet certain family income standards; providing that in order to qualify for the Program an individual may not be covered by or have voluntarily terminated certain employer-based health insurance coverage within a certain time period; requiring the Department to make certain outreach efforts; providing that Program applications shall be made available in a certain manner; requiring the Department to apply for a certain waiver, conduct certain studies, and submit certain reports; making provisions of this Act severable; and generally relating to the Maryland Children's Health Program.~~

FOR the purpose of establishing the Children and Families Health Care Program under which certain individuals who meet certain family income standards would be eligible for certain health benefits either through an employer sponsored health benefit plan, an individual health benefit plan, or the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; altering the eligibility requirements for certain individuals under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; permitting certain enrollees of certain programs to have guaranteed eligibility for a certain time; requiring certain individuals enrolled in the Children and Families Health Care Program to pay a family contribution amount on or before a certain date; authorizing the Department to establish certain regulations for a schedule for family contribution amounts and collection of family contribution amounts; establishing certain guidelines for terminating employer sponsored health insurance; requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to enroll certain individuals into the Children and Families Health Care Program; requiring the Department to provide expedited eligibility to certain individuals under certain circumstances and to provide certain organizations with certain information; requiring the Department to establish a certain school-based outreach program and to develop certain outreach mechanisms; providing for the appointment, compensation, and duties of an Executive Director for the Foundation; permitting the Foundation to employ staff; requiring the Foundation to prepare certain budgets and to submit certain budgets to certain General Assembly committees; requiring insurers and nonprofit health service plans that issue or deliver group health insurance policies to provide enrollment information for the Children and Families Health Care Program; prohibiting an agent, broker, or insurer from referring an employee or a dependent of an employee to the Children and Families Health Care Program or arranging for an employee or a dependent of an employee to apply to the Children and Families Health Care Program under certain circumstances; requiring the members of the Foundation to file a certain disclosure statement; providing for certain goals for