

~~Article Health General~~~~15-106.1.~~

~~(A) THE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FORMULA FOR NURSING FACILITY SERVICES, AS SET FORTH IN THE CODE OF MARYLAND REGULATIONS, SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TARGET OCCUPANCY PERCENTAGE FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING AMOUNTS PAYABLE TO SUCH FACILITIES FOR CAPITAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND OTHER COSTS NOT DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE PROVISION OF RESIDENT CARE.~~

~~(B) THE TARGET OCCUPANCY PERCENTAGE REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR SHALL BE EQUAL TO THE MEAN PERCENTAGE OF OCCUPIED BEDS OF ALL NURSING FACILITIES IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR, MINUS THREE PERCENTAGE POINTS.~~

~~(C) HOWEVER, IF A NURSING FACILITY'S OCCUPANCY IS LESS THAN THAT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THEN THAT FACILITY SHALL BE REIMBURSED AT THE STATE AVERAGE MINUS THREE PERCENTAGE POINTS.~~

~~(D) IF A NURSING FACILITY'S OCCUPANCY IS GREATER THAN THAT SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THEN THAT FACILITY SHALL BE REIMBURSED BASED ON ITS ACTUAL OCCUPANCY~~ Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with the health care industry, shall study the feasibility of altering the payment parameters, structure, and target occupancy percentage that is currently used in the Medicaid reimbursement formula for nursing facility services as set forth in the Code of Maryland Regulations. For the purpose of determining amounts payable to nursing facilities for capital, administrative, and other costs not directly attributable to the provision of resident care, the Department shall consider amounts that will more accurately reflect current market costs and appropriate nursing home capacity. The Department shall report on the results of its study and on its recommendation for altering the payment parameters, structure, and target occupancy percentage to the Senate Finance Committee, the House Environmental Matters Committee, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December 1, 1998.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1998.

Approved May 21, 1998.

CHAPTER 725

(House Bill 1129)

AN ACT concerning

Workers' Compensation - Funeral Expenses

FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum amount to be paid for funeral expenses