

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Health Care Access and Cost Commission may make reasonable requests on carriers to submit data on the cost of a mandated health insurance service, utilization of a mandated health insurance service, and any other information the Commission considers necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if a member of the General Assembly submits a proposal for a mandated health insurance service on or before July 1 of any year, the Commission, in accordance with the requirements of § 15-1501 of the Insurance Article, as enacted by this Act, shall review and evaluate the proposal and shall submit its findings and recommendations regarding the proposal in its December report of that year.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Commission shall:

(a) conduct an initial evaluation of the cost of existing mandated health insurance services and submit the results of its initial evaluation in the report due to the General Assembly under this Act by December 31, 1998;

(b) recommend in its report an appropriate percentage of the average annual wage in the State that the total cost of mandated health insurance services may not exceed;

(c) take into consideration in its recommendation the percentage of the average annual wage in the State that relates to the premium associated with:

(1) the current mandated health insurance services enacted in this State for a typical group and individual health benefits plan;

(2) the benefits provided under the State Employee Health Benefits Plan for medical coverage; and

(3) the Comprehensive Standard Health Benefit Plan as defined in § 15-1201(n) of the Insurance Article.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1998.

May 21, 1998

The Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 268.

This bill requires State payment of death benefits and funeral benefits if a volunteer or career firefighter or rescue squad member is killed or dies while providing emergency or rescue assistance, whether acting alone or at the direction of a fire or