

children improving the processes for determining eligibility for the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Maryland Children's Health Program, including the feasibility of facilitating outreach or auto-enrollment through linkages with other electronic data sources;

(2) (i) study and make recommendations for increasing the availability and affordability of health care coverage for children with family income that exceeds 300% of the applicable poverty income level;

(ii) include as options in the study and recommendations:

1. buying into the Maryland Children's Health Program;
2. developing a State-sponsored health care coverage program with fewer mandates than the Maryland Children's Health Program; and
3. establishing a health benefit plan with child-appropriate benefits; and

(3) on or before January 1, 2009, report on its studies and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

~~(a) The Maryland Health Care Commission and the Office of the Comptroller shall study and make recommendations on the implementation of a health care coverage mandate for dependent children by 2011, if more than 3% of children in the State are estimated to be uninsured.~~

~~(b) The Commission and the Office shall incorporate in the study and recommendations:~~

~~(a) The Maryland Health Care Commission and the Office of the Comptroller annually shall study:~~

~~(1) the number of Maryland families, by income level, claiming the State income tax exemption for dependent children;~~

~~(2) the value to a family of the State income tax exemption for dependent children, by income level; and~~

~~(3) the effect of the provisions of § 10-211.1 of the Tax - General Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, on the number and percentage of children in the State who are uninsured; and~~