

Chapter 703

(House Bill 814)

AN ACT concerning

Health Insurance – Individual Health Benefit Plans – Frequency of Premium Increases

FOR the purpose of prohibiting health insurance carriers, with a certain exception, from increasing the premium of an individual on an individual health benefit plan more frequently than once during a certain period of time; providing that an increase in an individual's premium includes an increase due to the individual moving into a higher age band; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to premiums for individual health benefit plans.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General
Section 19–706(cccc)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2009 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to

Article – Insurance
Section 15–1314
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

19–706.

(CCCC) THE PROVISIONS OF § 15–1314 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE APPLY TO HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

Article – Insurance

15–1314.

~~A CARRIER MAY NOT INCREASE THE PREMIUM ON AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN MORE FREQUENTLY THAN ONCE EVERY 6 MONTHS.~~

(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A CARRIER MAY NOT INCREASE AN INDIVIDUAL'S PREMIUM ON AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN MORE FREQUENTLY THAN ONCE EVERY 12 MONTHS.

(B) AN INCREASE IN AN INDIVIDUAL'S PREMIUM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION INCLUDES AN INCREASE DUE TO THE INDIVIDUAL MOVING INTO A HIGHER AGE BAND.

(C) A CARRIER MAY INCREASE AN INDIVIDUAL'S PREMIUM ON AN INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN MORE FREQUENTLY THAN ONCE EVERY 12 MONTHS IF THE PREMIUM INCREASE IS DUE SOLELY TO THE ENROLLMENT OF A NEW FAMILY MEMBER TO THE INDIVIDUAL HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to all individual health benefit plans issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after October 1, 2010.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2010.