

HOUSE BILL 829

C3

9lr2598

By: **Delegates Ghrist, Adams, Kelly, Mautz, and Sample–Hughes**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance – Provider Panels – Graduate Providers**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a carrier from rejecting a provider who provides
4 community–based health services for an accredited program solely because the
5 provider is a licensed graduate social worker, licensed master social worker, or
6 licensed graduate professional counselor; and generally relating to health insurance
7 and provider panels.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Insurance

10 Section 15–112(g)(1)

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Insurance

15 Section 15–112(g)(2)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Insurance**

21 15–112.

22 (g) (1) A provider that seeks to participate on a provider panel of a carrier shall
23 submit an application to the carrier.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) (i) Subject to **SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH AND**
2 paragraph (3) of this subsection, the carrier, after reviewing the application, shall accept
3 or reject the provider for participation on the carrier's provider panel.

4 (ii) **A CARRIER MAY NOT REJECT A PROVIDER WHO PROVIDES**
5 **COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH SERVICES FOR A PROGRAM ACCREDITED UNDER**
6 **COMAR 10.63.02 FOR PARTICIPATION ON THE CARRIER'S PROVIDER PANEL**
7 **SOLELY BECAUSE THE PROVIDER IS:**

8 1. **A LICENSED GRADUATE SOCIAL WORKER OR A**
9 **LICENSED MASTER SOCIAL WORKER, AS THOSE TERMS ARE DEFINED IN § 19-101 OF**
10 **THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE; OR**

11 2. **A LICENSED GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR**
12 **AS DEFINED IN § 17-101 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.**

13 **(III)** If the carrier rejects the provider for participation on the carrier's
14 provider panel, the carrier shall send to the provider at the address listed in the application
15 written notice of the rejection.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2019.