

- (ii) increase fee-for-service health care provider rates;
- (iii) pay managed care organization health care providers consistent with the fee-for-service health provider rates; and
- (iv) after fiscal year 2008:
 1. maintain increased capitation payments to managed care organizations;
 2. maintain increased rates for health care providers;
 3. in accordance with § 6-121(b)(3) of this article, support the provision of office-based specialty care, diagnostic testing, and laboratory tests for individuals with family income that does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level; and
 4. support generally the operations of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

[(c)] (D) (1) Health care provider rate increases under subsection (b)(2) and (3)(ii), (iii), and (iv)2 of this section shall be determined by the Secretary in consultation with managed care organizations, the Maryland Hospital Association, the Maryland State Medical Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter, [and] the American College of Emergency Room Physicians, Maryland Chapter, ~~AND~~ THE MARYLAND STATE DENTAL ASSOCIATION, AND THE MARYLAND DENTAL SOCIETY.

(2) The Secretary shall submit the plan for Medicaid health care provider rate increases under paragraph (1) of this subsection to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, Senate Finance Committee, House Appropriations Committee, and House Health and Government Operations Committee prior to adopting the regulations implementing the increase.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that, until fee-for-service health care provider rates paid by the Medical Assistance Program and managed care organization health care provider rates are at a level of rates paid to similar providers for the same services under the federal Medicare fee schedule, funds in the Medical Assistance Program Account established under Title 19, Subtitle 8 of the Insurance Article should be used only to maintain and increase health care provider rates under the Program and not to otherwise generally support the operations of the Program.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2008.