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**BULLETIN 09-06**

Date: April 3, 2009

To: Insurers, Nonprofit Health Service Plans and Health Maintenance Organizations  
Participating in the Maryland Small Group Health Insurance/HMO Market

Re: Notice of Emergency Legislation—Senate Bill 84, Acts of 2009

The purpose of this bulletin is to update carriers in the small group market of the progress of the emergency legislation that will impact their business practice in Maryland. Senate Bill 84 of the Acts of 2009 has passed both chambers and is awaiting the Governor's signature. It is expected that the Governor will sign Senate Bill 84 on April 14, 2009. As emergency legislation, the bill will become effective on the date the Governor signs it.

Senate Bill 84 provides the protections of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to Maryland residents who were:

1. Covered under small employer contracts that are subject to the Maryland "mini-COBRA" continuation of coverage requirements found in §15-409 of the Insurance Article, and
2. Involuntarily terminated from employment between September 1, 2008 and February 17, 2009.

Senate Bill 84 requires carriers to provide the extended election period, similar to the extended election period provided under the ARRA for individuals eligible for COBRA. Interested parties may view a copy of Senate Bill 84 on the General Assembly's website at <http://www.mlis.state.md.us>.

Questions regarding this bulletin may be directed to the Life/Health section at 410-468-2170.

Brenda A. Wilson  
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Life/Health Section