As Medicaid grows, Maryland seeks help processing claims"

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the Maryland State Medical Society. Many doctors have opted to give free service to needy patients rather than try to wade through the time-consuming, complex process of submitting a claim.To that end, the system could be run more efficiently in the hands of a private company. But others are worried about their ability to to get help from elected leaders in challenging a denied Medicaid claim.The prospect could be lucrative for the dozens of IT firms in the state looking to compete for the contract. Potential bidders include Affiliated Computer Services, CNSI, CSC and Unisys, Lehman said. Avinder Singh, senior vice president of CNSI's health and human services division, said he is closely watching the process and his Gaithersburg company intends to bid for the contract when it is issued. CNSI already provides technical support for the aged Medicaid software program, and he believes the state is making the right choice in upgrading to a new system.But the practice has drawn its critics, who argue it has resulted in delays, glitches and a lack of proper oversight. Daraius Irani, an economist at Towson University's Regional Economic Studies Institute, said the state needs to make sure the Medicaid program continues to run efficiently and the confidentiality of patients is not compromised.It could then take about three years to transition from a state-run Medicaid program to one handled by an outside company.By then, federal health care reform being considered now could result in another expansion of Medicaid in Maryland and the rest of the states.Lehman said the state would look to shed about 100 employees in the department if it decides to outsource Medicaid.