

multidisciplinary consultation team to assist in the interpretation of prescription monitoring data; requiring dispensers to submit electronically certain information to the Program except in certain circumstances; prohibiting the Board and the Secretary from charging a fee or imposing an assessment on certain persons for certain purposes; making prescription monitoring data confidential and privileged and not subject to certain means of legal compulsion except under certain circumstances; authorizing certain agencies and persons to obtain access to prescription monitoring data under certain circumstances; establishing immunity from ~~civil~~ liability for certain agencies and persons relating to the operation and use of the Program; providing for education and training relating to the Program; establishing penalties for violations of the requirements of the Program; defining certain terms; providing that implementation of the Program is contingent on the Board obtaining certain federal grant money federal, State, or private funds; prohibiting the Program from collecting prescription monitoring data before a certain date; and generally relating to the creation and operation of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 21-2A-01 through 21-2A-09, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
"Subtitle 2A. Prescription Drug Monitoring Program"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Thousands of Marylanders suffer from chronic pain and other conditions that make access to pain medications and other pharmaceutical therapies necessary and beneficial; and

WHEREAS, Increasing numbers of Maryland adults and adolescents are engaging in prescription drug abuse and diversion to the detriment of their health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Maryland should have a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program that supports the lawful use of controlled substances without interfering with legitimate professional practice and patient care; and

WHEREAS, A Prescription Drug Monitoring Program should assist health care professionals and law enforcement professionals in the identification, treatment, and prevention of prescription drug abuse and in the identification and investigation of unlawful prescription drug diversion; and

WHEREAS, Data concerning monitored prescription drugs under a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program would be available for research purposes, including research about the effects of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program itself; now, therefore,