

Maryland Adult External High School Program in an amount not less than the amount of the Governor's General Fund appropriation for the Program in fiscal year [1996] 2006.

(2) For each [of] fiscal [years 1998 through 2006] YEAR the Governor shall include federal funds, to the extent available, for the Program in an amount not less than the amount of the Governor's federal fund appropriation for the Program in fiscal year [1996] 2006.

[(d) During fiscal year 2006, in order to assess the effectiveness of the Program, the State Board shall conduct an evaluation of the Program.

(e) The State Board shall report to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2005, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the results of the evaluation of the Program.]

**Chapter 542 of the Acts of 1997, as amended by Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2001**

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1997. [It shall remain effective until June 30, 2006, and, at the end of June 30, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2006.

April 7, 2006

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of the House  
State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 156 – *State Employees and Retirees – State Prescription Drug Benefit Plan – Co-Payments*.

This bill requires the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program to offer a voluntary mail-order option for prescription drugs, under which the maximum co-payment for each 90-day prescription may not exceed \$20.

Senate Bill 430, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 156.

Very truly yours,  
Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor