

CHAPTER 282

(House Bill 324)

AN ACT concerning

Senior Prescription Drug Program - Modifications

Maryland Pharmacy Programs - Modifications and Subsidies for Medicare Drug Benefits

FOR the purpose of renaming the Senior Prescription Drug Program to be the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program; altering the eligibility requirements for and purpose of the Senior Prescription Drug Program; requiring the Program to provide a State subsidy for the cost of a portion of Medicare Part D premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance or Medicare Advantage Plan premiums and deductibles; authorizing the Board of Directors of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan to reduce or limit copayments for certain enrollees; establishing priority for funding, if moneys in a certain account are insufficient to cover certain costs; altering the purpose for which the Board shall reimburse the Program Administrator altering the amount of the subsidy a certain nonprofit health service plan is required to provide to the Program; repealing the requirement that a certain nonprofit health service plan administer the Program; requiring the Board of Directors of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan to contract with a third party to administer the Program; specifying the amount of the subsidy provided to enrollees by the Program; requiring an enrollee to pay a certain copayment or coinsurance amount; requiring the Program to establish a certain subsidy limit; altering the method of payment to the Program Administrator; repealing a requirement that certain rebates or other discounts inure to the benefit of the Program and be deposited to the Maryland Health Insurance Plan Fund; repealing a certain termination provision; altering certain eligibility requirements for the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program; repealing the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program; establishing the Medicare Option Prescription Drug Program; establishing the purpose, administration, operation, and eligibility requirements of the Medicare Option Prescription Drug Program; authorizing the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to administer the Medicare Option Prescription Drug Program as part of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; authorizing the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to take certain actions; requiring the Medicare Option Prescription Drug Program to provide benefits to certain individuals; requiring the Secretary to adopt regulations to implement the Medicare Option Prescription Drug Program; extending the termination date of the Senior Prescription Drug Program until a certain date; authorizing the Board of Directors of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan to automatically transfer certain enrollees of the Senior Prescription Drug Program into the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program; authorizing the Board of Directors of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan to automatically assign certain enrollees to a Medicare Part D plan under certain circumstances, and to extend certain benefits to certain enrollees until a certain date, subject to certain limitations; providing that it is the intent of the General Assembly that