

(d) The Program shall be administered and operated by the Department as permitted by federal law or waiver.

(e) (1) The Program shall be open to Medicare beneficiaries who lack other public or private prescription drug coverage.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, enrollment in the Maryland Medbank Program established under § 15-124.2 of this subtitle or the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program established under § 15-124 of this subtitle does not disqualify an individual from being eligible for the Program.

(f) (1) Subject to subsection (g) of this section, an enrollee may purchase medically necessary prescription drugs that are covered under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program from any pharmacy that participates in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program at a price that is based on the price paid by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, minus the aggregate value of any federally mandated manufacturers' rebates.

(2) Subject to subsection (g) of this section, and to the extent authorized under federal waiver, an enrollee whose annual household income is at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines may receive a discount subsidized by the Department that is equal to 35 percent of the price paid by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program for each medically necessary prescription drug purchased under the Program.

(g) The Department may establish mechanisms to:

(1) Recover the administrative costs of the Program;

(2) Reimburse participating pharmacies in an amount equal to the Maryland Medical Assistance price, minus the copayment paid by the enrollee for each prescription filled under the Program; and

(3) Allow participating pharmacies to collect a \$1 processing fee, in addition to any authorized dispensing fee, for each prescription filled for an enrollee under the Program.

(h) The Secretary shall adopt regulations to implement the Program.]

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Health - General**

15-103.

(d) As permitted by federal law or waiver, the Secretary [shall] MAY administer the [Maryland Pharmacy Discount] MEDICARE OPTION PRESCRIPTION DRUG Program, established under § 15-124.1 of this subtitle, as part of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.