

*the applicability of this Act;* and generally relating to the establishment of a Maryland Rx Program.

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article — Health — General~~

~~Section 15-601 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 6. Maryland Rx Program"~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2000 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)~~

BY adding to

Article — State Personnel and Pensions

Section 2-502.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

~~Article — Health — General~~

~~SUBTITLE 6. MARYLAND RX PROGRAM.~~

~~15-601.~~

Article — State Personnel and Pensions

2-502.1.

(A) ~~(1)~~ IN THIS SECTION ~~THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED,~~

~~(2)~~ "MARYLAND RX PROGRAM" MEANS A PURCHASING POOL FOR PHARMACY BENEFITS THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

~~(3)~~ "PERSON" MEANS A BUSINESS OR OTHER ENTITY OR AN INDIVIDUAL.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A MARYLAND RX PROGRAM ~~THAT MAKES PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AVAILABLE AT REDUCED COST TO ACHIEVE SAVINGS ON THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR;~~

(1) THE STATE EMPLOYEE AND RETIREE HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS PROGRAM; AND

(2) ANY BUSINESS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR OTHER ENTITY IDENTIFIED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE THAT SATISFIES THE CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(C) THE MARYLAND RX PROGRAM SHALL SEEK SAVINGS THROUGH:

(1) A PREFERRED LIST OF COVERED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS;

(2) REBATES FROM DRUG MANUFACTURERS; AND