

CHAPTER 544

(Senate Bill 621)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program - ~~Adjustments to Income and Asset Requirements~~ Request for a Study and Proposal Coverage Programs

FOR the purpose of ~~altering the maximum asset and income levels allowed to qualify for eligibility under the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program; increasing the maximum copayment allowed under the Program; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop a program to encourage provide information to certain applicants to the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program to seek certain prescription coverage; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, together with the Maryland Health Care Commission, certain persons, and other appropriate State agencies, to study and propose report on the possibility of a certain pharmacy assistance plan; requiring the Secretary to submit a certain report and proposal on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program.~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General

Section 15-124

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Senior citizens are commonly afflicted with multiple chronic health conditions necessitating a high level of use of prescription medications; and

WHEREAS, Compliance with prescribed medicine regimens is a significant factor in the optimal management and control of chronic disease and in maintaining a healthy older citizenry; and

WHEREAS, The cost of prescription medicines is, for many low and moderate income seniors, an out-of-pocket expense not covered by Medicare or any other affordable health insurance program, and often one they are unable to meet given their fixed incomes and limited financial resources; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland wishes to assist seniors with limited financial resources so that they can be compliant with their prescribed medicine regimens and able to maintain their health and independence; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland wishes to create a means of providing prescription medicines to seniors with limited financial resources so that they will restore or maintain their health and well-being; now, therefore,