

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

Article - Health - General

15-124.

(a) (1) The Department shall maintain a Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program for low income individuals whose:

(i) Assets are not more than ~~1.5~~ 4.0 times the amount of accountable resources according to the asset schedule of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program; and

(ii) Gross annual income does not exceed:

1. ~~4,600~~ 12,200 plus \$500 for each individual over 1 in a family unit; and

2. An annual increase set by the Secretary under paragraph (2)(ii)4 of this subsection.

(2) (i) 1. In this paragraph the following words have the meanings indicated.

2. "Income disregard" means the exclusion of up to \$1,000 of annual income earned by an individual as a client of a sheltered workshop if the individual's sole other income is derived from a Social Security payment.

3. "Sheltered workshop" means a workshop licensed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration under Title 7, Subtitle 9 of the Health - General Article.

(ii) For the purpose of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Secretary shall:

1. In order to determine eligibility for the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program, deduct any income disregards from the countable gross income of a unit that contains a disabled individual;

2. Define excluded assets;

3. Establish a family unit structure; and

4. Beginning July 1, ~~1985~~ 2001, increase annually at the time Social Security benefits are increased, rounded to the next highest even \$50 level, the income level within which an individual is eligible for benefits under the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program by the larger of:

A. The percentage by which benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401-433) are increased by the federal government due to cost-of-living changes as that percentage is reported in the Federal Register pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 415(I)(2)(D) but not to exceed 8 percent; or