

(2) As a condition of participation, the Department may require Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program participants to apply for eligibility in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program within 60 days of notification to do so by the Department.

(3) The rules and regulations shall require that the recipient be given notice and an opportunity for a hearing before eligibility may be denied, restricted, or terminated under this subsection.

~~(E) (1) THE SECRETARY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION AND OTHER APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCIES, SHALL STUDY AND PROPOSE A BUY-IN PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY WHO HAVE ASSETS AND INCOMES OVER THE ELIGIBILITY LEVELS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) AND (2) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~(2) THE SECRETARY SHALL GIVE PRIORITY TO ADOPTING A PROGRAM REQUIRED TO BE PROPOSED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

~~(3) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2000, THE SECRETARY SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL AND ON A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR, AND ESTIMATE OF COSTS OF, THE PROPOSAL TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.~~

~~(E) THE SECRETARY SHALL DEVELOP A PROGRAM, IN CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCIES, THAT WILL ENCOURAGE APPLICANTS TO THE MARYLAND PHARMACY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO SEEK PRESCRIPTION COVERAGE THROUGH:~~

~~(1) FREE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY DRUG MANUFACTURERS; AND~~

~~(2) IF APPLICABLE, THE AIDS ADMINISTRATION.~~

~~(E) THE SECRETARY SHALL DEVELOP A PROGRAM, IN CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE AGENCIES, THAT WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION TO INELIGIBLE MARYLAND PHARMACY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICANTS REGARDING OTHER PROGRAMS THAT THEY MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR INCLUDING FREE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY DRUG MANUFACTURERS.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(1) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in cooperation with the Maryland Health Care Commission, the Department of Aging, the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, two senior citizens appointed by the Governor, and other appropriate State agencies, shall study and propose report on the possibility of a buy-in prescription assistance program for the elderly who have assets and incomes over the eligibility levels established under the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program.

(2) On or before December 1, 2000, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall issue a final report on the proposal findings required under paragraph