

plan to exclude coverage for certain prescription drugs; requiring that enrollment be reserved for a certain period for a certain population of eligible individuals; requiring that the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene adopt certain regulations and issue a report jointly with the Maryland Insurance Administration and the Health Services Cost Review Commission; prohibiting the Health Services Cost Review Commission from taking steps to eliminate or adjust the differential for substantial, affordable, and available coverage for a certain period; authorizing the Secretary to suspend the plan and certain provisions of this Act on certain notification by the Health Care Financing Administration; providing for the termination of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to a short-term prescription drug plan for certain individuals in medically underserved counties or portions of counties and to the differential awarded carriers for providing substantial, affordable, and available coverage.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 15-601 through 15-605, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle ~~6- Maryland Medicare Plus Choice Insurance Subsidy Program~~” 6. Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Insurance

Section 6-101 and 15-606

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Volume and 1999 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Residents in fourteen Maryland counties lack access to a Medicare plus Choice managed care plan; and

WHEREAS, Fifteen percent of seniors in Maryland do not have access to a Medicare plus Choice managed care plan that provides prescription drug benefits; and

~~WHEREAS, Seniors who cannot afford the higher premiums for a Medicare plus Choice managed care plan should not be deprived of access to the kind of care they need; and~~

WHEREAS, Maryland is among the states with the highest percentage of Medicare enrollees who lack a Medicare plus Choice managed care plan that provides prescription drug benefits; and

~~WHEREAS, Medicare plus Choice managed care can provide Maryland's senior citizens with benefits they do not get under the Federal Medicare program; and~~