

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. 401-432) 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

B. The dollar amount by which the medical assistance income schedules are increased by the State].

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article — Health — General

15-601.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated:

(b) "Carrier" means:

(1) An authorized insurer;

(2) A nonprofit health service plan;

(3) A health maintenance organization;

(4) A managed care organization;

(5) A dental plan organization; or

(6) Any other person that provides health benefit plans subject to regulation by the State.

(c) "Eligible individual" means an individual who:

(1) Is a resident of Maryland and at least 65 years of age;

(2) Is eligible for Medicare Plus Choice, as defined under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act, as amended;

(3) [Resides in a medically underserved county or portion of a county;

(4) Pays the premium for Medicare Part "B", as required by Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended;

[(5)] (4) Is not enrolled in a Medicare Plus Choice managed care program that provides prescription drug benefits at the time that the individual applies for enrollment in the Plan; and

[(6)] (5) Pays the premium, co payments, and deductibles for the Plan.

(d) "Enrollee" means an individual enrolled in the Plan.