

~~Pharmacy Discount Program established under Section 2 of this Act without authorization of the General Assembly, as expressed through an Act of the General Assembly.~~

~~SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall:~~

~~(a) study the feasibility of implementing a mechanism for providing discounts for prescription drugs under the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program established under Section 2 of this Act that are larger than the discount provided under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program for individuals who are eligible for the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program and whose annual household incomes are less than 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, such that the larger discounts are inversely related to the eligible individual's annual household income; and~~

~~(b) on or before December 1, 2001, report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on any findings and recommendations that result from the study required under subsection (a) of this section, including:~~

~~(1) the expected impact of implementing such a mechanism on participation in the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program;~~

~~(2) whether federal funds could be used to finance such a mechanism;~~

~~(3) a recommendation on the appropriate financing of such a mechanism; and~~

~~(4) a cost-benefit analysis of any recommendations.~~

~~SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:~~

~~(a) it is the intent of the General Assembly that a pharmacy that participates in the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program established under § 15-124.1 of the Health General Article shall be compensated for reductions in reimbursement that result from its participation in the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program; and~~

~~(b) the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall:~~

~~(1) develop a mechanism for a pharmacy that participates in the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program established under § 15-124.1 of the Health General Article to recover reductions in reimbursement that result from participation in the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program; and~~

~~(2) ensure the maximum use of federal funds that are available to accomplish the recovery of reductions in reimbursement required under paragraph (1) of this subsection.~~

~~SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:~~

~~(a) the State Comptroller of the Treasury, in consultation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, shall study the feasibility of providing a tax credit for catastrophic out-of-pocket prescription drug expenses;~~