

~~information regarding eligibility, benefits, and requirements of all available programs and financial assistance that facilitate access to prescription drugs in the State; and~~

~~(e) on or before December 1, 2001 and annually thereafter, report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on the Department's progress in complying with the requirements of this section.~~

~~SECTION 15. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall adopt regulations not later than June 30, 2001 to implement, effective July 1, 2001, the provisions of Section 3 of this Act.~~

~~SECTION 16. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall study programs in other states that are similar to the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program established under Section 2 of this Act to determine anticipated enrollment, cost, and utilization, and report, on or before December 1, 2001, to the Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on its findings.~~

~~SECTION 17. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene utilize not less than \$12 million in additional funding to expand the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall report, on or before January 15, 2002, to the Governor, and in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on:~~

~~(1) the increased costs resulting from the expansion required under Section 3 of this Act; and~~

~~(2) any recommendations for further expansion of the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program.~~

~~SECTION 16. 18. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 4 of this Act shall take effect July 1, 2001. On the earlier of the end of June 30, 2002, or the availability of comparable prescription pharmacy benefits provided by Medicare under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended, with no further action required by the General Assembly, Section 4 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. If comparable prescription pharmacy benefits are provided by Medicare under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall notify the Department of Legislative Services, 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 not later than 90 days before prescription drug benefits are to be provided.~~

~~SECTION 17. 19. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That for fiscal year 2002, the State Comptroller of the Treasury shall distribute to the Maryland Health Care Foundation the revenue collected as a result of the taking effect of Chapter _____ (H.B. 828) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2001 in a manner to ensure that:~~

~~(a) (1) not less than 50,000 individuals will be served under Section 1 of this Act; but~~