

(5) the impact of the discounts provided under the Program by participating pharmacies, on the gross annual revenues and net profits, derived from the sale of prescription drugs, of participating pharmacies.

SECTION 18. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall transfer \$2.5 million of the fiscal year 2002 Medical Care Programs Provider Reimbursement Budget, and \$3 million of the fiscal year 2003 Medical Care Programs Provider Reimbursement Budget, to the Maryland Health Care Foundation for the sole purpose of making one or more grants to entities to operate the Maryland Medbank Program established under § 15-124.2 of the Health - General Article.

SECTION 19. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That is it the intent of the General Assembly that the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall authorize a \$1 processing fee for participating pharmacies in the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program established under § 15-124.1 of the Health - General Article for one year after the implementation date of the Program.

SECTION 20. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that, beginning in fiscal year 2003, each carrier participating in the substantial, available, and affordable coverage differential program shall contribute to the Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan Fund under § 15-606(c) of the Insurance Article an amount equal to 50 percent of the value of that carrier's differential under the program, if:

(a) the General Assembly acts affirmatively to increase the contribution to 50 percent; and

(b) the Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan demonstrates a financial need for the increased contribution.

SECTION 21. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 9, 10, and 16 of this Act shall take effect June 1, 2001.

SECTION 22. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Sections 13, 14, and 21 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Approved April 20, 2001.

## CHAPTER 135

### (House Bill 6)

AN ACT concerning

~~Coverage of Insurance Gaps in Pharmaceutical Benefits for Seniors~~  
~~Senior Prescription Drug Relief Act~~  
~~Senior Prescription Drug Relief Act~~

~~FOR the purpose of establishing certain prescription drug benefit programs;~~