

~~(2) (i) The total contributions to be made to the Short Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan by all carriers participating in the substantial, [affordable, and available] AVAILABLE, AND AFFORDABLE coverage differential program shall be [\$5.4 million per year] EQUAL TO 50 PERCENT OF THE VALUE OF THE DIFFERENTIAL PROVIDED TO ALL CARRIERS THAT OFFER SUBSTANTIAL, AVAILABLE, AND AFFORDABLE COVERAGE IN THE NONGROUP INSURANCE MARKET.~~

~~(ii) 1. Each carrier participating in the substantial, [affordable, and available] AVAILABLE, AND AFFORDABLE coverage differential program shall contribute an amount to the Short Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan that is equal to the total derived by multiplying [\$5.4 million] 50 PERCENT OF THE VALUE OF THE DIFFERENTIAL PROVIDED TO ALL CARRIERS IN THE PROGRAM by the percentage of the total benefit to all carriers from the substantial, [affordable, and available] AVAILABLE, AND AFFORDABLE coverage differential that the carrier [receives] RECEIVED on January 1, [2000] 2001.~~

~~2. On July 1 of each year, the Health Services Cost Review Commission shall calculate each carrier's contribution and assess the contribution as provided in this subsection.~~

~~(iii) 1. The last carrier to provide Medicare Plus Choice coverage in medically underserved counties or portions of counties shall use an amount equal to the contribution derived under subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph to provide the Short Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan created under Title 15, Subtitle 6 of the Health General Article.~~

~~2. The carrier is not required, in providing the plan under this subparagraph, to offer any other benefit otherwise required under Title 10, Subtitle 7 of the Health General Article or Subtitle 8 of this title.~~

~~(iv) The Health Services Cost Review Commission shall annually assess [any] EACH carrier [other than the carrier described under subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph] for the carrier's contribution and shall transfer the contribution to the Treasurer of the State, for payment into the Short Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Fund created under § 15-604 of the Health General Article.~~

~~(v) If a carrier withdraws from the substantial, [affordable, and available] AVAILABLE, AND AFFORDABLE coverage program, the Commission shall recalculate the contributions to the prescription drug subsidy plan for the remaining carriers.~~

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

~~Chapter 565 of the Acts of 2000~~

~~SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2000. On the earlier of the end of June 30, [2002] 2003, 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, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. If comparable~~