

State's eligibility for federal funding of Medicaid, the Secretary may suspend the provision of the Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan or the provision of this Act that is the subject of the notification.

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, 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 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 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) on or before August 1, 2001, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall submit to the federal Health Care Financing Administration an application for an amendment to the State's existing § 1115 demonstration waiver necessary to implement the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program established under § 15-124.1 of the Health - General Article;

(b) the Department shall include in its application required under subsection (a) of this section provisions for the establishment of a pharmaceutical care management program, for individuals who will participate in the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program, the objectives of which shall be to:

(1) improve the overall health condition of covered individuals;

(2) ensure that covered individuals are receiving necessary prescription medications, are not receiving multiple medications which are not adding to the overall improvement of the health conditions of the individuals, and are not taking multiple medications which by their interaction may cause harm; and

(3) ensure coordination between a covered individual's primary care provider, pharmacist, and other health care professionals in the delivery of pharmaceutical care;

(c) the Department shall apply for federal matching funds subject to budget neutrality requirements under § 1115 of the Social Security Act and the availability of State funds; and

(d) if the Health Care Financing Administration does not approve the portions of the waiver application that require a processing fee or the pharmaceutical care management program for participating pharmacies, the Department shall implement the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program without the processing fee.

SECTION 7. 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;