

1. the most appropriate method or methods to maximize the potential of federal prescription drug pricing programs through these types of entities in the State;

2. the best option or options for financing any method or methods recommended under item 1 of this item; and

3. the nature and extent of outreach that should be performed to best inform eligible individuals of the ability to obtain prescription drugs through the federally qualified health centers and local health departments in the State; and

(6) the costs and benefits of any recommendations under item (5)(ii) of this section.

SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall adopt regulations not later than June 30, 2001 to implement the provisions of Section 4 of this Act.

SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and the carrier that is required to provide the Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan under § 15-606(c) of the Insurance Article shall agree, not later than June 30, 2001, to modify the contract required under Chapter 565 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2000 to enable the implementation, effective July 1, 2001, of the provisions of Section 4 of this Act.

SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene is notified by the federal Health Care Financing Administration that any provision of Section 4 of this Act will invalidate the Maryland Medicare Waiver or cause a reduction in the State's eligibility for federal funding of Medicaid, the Secretary may suspend the implementation or operation of the provision of Section 4 of this Act that is the subject of the notification.

SECTION 12. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall take effect July 1, 2001. On the earlier of the end of June 30, 2003, or the availability of comparable prescription drug benefits provided by Medicare under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act, as amended, with no further action required by the General Assembly, Sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect. If comparable prescription drug 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 13. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall take effect on the date that the federal Health Care Financing Administration approves a waiver amendment applied for in accordance with Section 6 of this Act. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall, within 5 working days of the date of the approval of the State's waiver amendment application, notify the Department of Legislative Services in writing at 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401. If the waiver amendment is denied, Section 1 of this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.