

SECTION 14. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect on the date that the federal Health Care Financing Administration denies 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 denial 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 approved, Section 2 of this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the General Assembly.

SECTION 15. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene may not enroll eligible individuals in the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program established under § 15-124.1 of the Health - General Article before January 1, 2002.

SECTION 16. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) an individual who is enrolled in the Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan as of June 30, 2001 shall remain eligible for the Plan regardless of whether the individual satisfies the income eligibility requirements imposed under § 15-601 of the Health - General Article on July 1, 2001; and

(b) no later than June 20, 2001, the carrier that is required to provide the Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan established under § 15-606 of the Insurance Article, as enacted by Section 4 of this Act, shall notify each individual who was enrolled in a Medicare Plus Choice plan on or before December 31, 1999 and lost coverage under that plan on or after January 1, 2000, of the existence of and eligibility criteria for the Plan.

SECTION 17. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) one year from the implementation date of the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program established under § 15-124.1 of the Health - General Article, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall report to the House Economic Matters Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the impact of the Program on both independent and chain pharmacies that participate in the Program.

(b) the study shall include data and information regarding:

(1) the average price of each of the 10 most commonly purchased prescription drugs under the Program, with a comparison to the average retail price of those prescription drugs for an individual without any prescription drug benefits;

(2) the average discount per prescription provided by participating pharmacies to enrollees under the Program;

(3) the aggregate value of the discounts provided by participating pharmacies to enrollees under the Program;

(4) the aggregate value of pharmaceutical manufacturers' rebates provided under the Program; and