

care providers about the hotline; requiring the Department to develop a methodology to track the number and type of calls received by the hotline; requiring the Department to report quarterly to the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee on the number and type of calls received by the hotline; and generally relating to the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and the Maryland Pharmacy Access Hotline.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 15-136

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~

~~Article – Health – General~~

~~Section 15-101(a) and (i)~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article – Health – General~~

~~Section 15-118.1~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article – Health – General~~

~~Section 15-124 and 15-124.1~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)~~

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, Unrestricted access to psychiatric medications is critical to the successful treatment of mental illnesses and brain disorders; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The implementation of preferred drug lists, formularies, and prior authorization programs in other states has been documented to result in a deterioration of patient care and increased psychiatric hospitalization; and~~

~~WHEREAS, A cost containment program that results in increased hospitalization will not save money for the State of Maryland but simply transfer costs to other areas of the State budget; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The human costs of restricting access to psychiatric medications far exceed the potential financial savings to the State of Maryland; and~~