

~~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~~

~~WHEREAS, Legislation introduced during the 2002 Session of the Maryland General Assembly prohibiting the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene from establishing prior authorization requirements or restricting coverage for medications used to treat mental illnesses and brain disorders in the Maryland Medical Assistance Program passed the Maryland House of Delegates and the Senate of Maryland; now, therefore,~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

~~15-101.~~

- ~~(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.~~
- ~~(i) "Program" means the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.~~

~~15-118.1.~~

~~(A) (1) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO DRUGS COVERED BY MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS UNDER § 15-103 OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~