

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2004.

Approved May 11, 2004.

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**CHAPTER 296**  
**(Senate Bill 614)**

AN ACT concerning

**State Employee Retirees - Retention of Prescription Benefits Plan**

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program to include a prescription drug benefit plan for certain State retirees notwithstanding any changes in federal law permitting a state to discontinue prescription drug benefit plans for state retirees; and generally relating to the State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program and prescription drug coverage for State retirees.

BY adding to

Article - State Personnel and Pensions

Section 2-509.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

**Article - State Personnel and Pensions**

2-509.1.

THE STATE SHALL CONTINUE TO INCLUDE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT PLAN IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT OPTIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PROGRAM AND AVAILABLE TO RETIREES UNDER §§ 2-508 AND 2-509 OF THIS SUBTITLE NOTWITHSTANDING THE ENACTMENT OF THE FEDERAL MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG, IMPROVEMENT, AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003 OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL LAW PERMITTING STATES TO DISCONTINUE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT PLANS TO RETIREES OF A STATE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

Approved May 11, 2004.

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