

reduced contingent upon acquisition of a federal freedom of choice waiver permitting Medical Assistance coverage of District of Columbia out of state hospitals to be restricted to specialty care not available in Maryland, it is the intent of the General Assembly that \$2,000,000 of the General Fund reduction to Inpatient Hospital Reimbursements represent savings to be realized by altering payments to hospitals in jurisdictions where Maryland Medical Assistance reimbursement rates to those hospitals are higher than those established by the host jurisdiction. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall have discretion to allocate the remaining \$4,000,000 General Fund reduction to Maryland hospitals. The department shall investigate the feasibility of not covering non-urgent care in hospital emergency rooms and shall submit a report on its findings by November 1, 1992.

Further, \$1,200,000 of the General Fund Appropriation may be transferred to the program Medical Care Operations Administration - 32.17.01.02 for the purpose of implementing an electronic claims management system, provided the budget committees have 45 days to review any such transfer.

Prior to obtaining a federal freedom of choice waiver permitting Medical Assistance coverage of District of Columbia hospitals to be restricted to specialty care not available in Maryland, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall submit to the senators from the affected geographic service areas of Southern Maryland, Frederick, Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Howard, and Prince George's Counties a plan that shall include: