

requiring the Council to study the establishment of a certain prescription drug monitoring program; requiring the study to make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene for establishing a prescription drug monitoring program for certain purposes; requiring the Council to include certain items in its study and recommendations; requiring the Council to submit a certain interim report and a certain final report on or before certain dates; defining a certain term; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to an Advisory Council on Prescription Drug Monitoring and a study of a prescription drug monitoring program.

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 21-2A-01 ~~through 21-2A-09 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 2A- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program~~ to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 2A. Advisory Council on Prescription Drug Monitoring”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Thousands of Marylanders suffer from chronic pain and other conditions that make access to pain medications and other pharmaceutical therapies necessary and beneficial; and

WHEREAS, Increasing numbers of Maryland adults and adolescents are engaging in prescription drug abuse and diversion to the detriment of their health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Maryland should have a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program that supports the lawful use of controlled substances without interfering with legitimate professional practice and patient care; and

WHEREAS, A Prescription Drug Monitoring Program should assist health care professionals and law enforcement professionals in the identification, treatment, and prevention of prescription drug abuse and in the identification and investigation of unlawful prescription drug diversion; and

WHEREAS, Data concerning monitored prescription drugs under a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program would be available for research purposes, including research about the effects of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program itself; now, therefore,

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