

(1) No later than June 1, 2003, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and the carrier that is required to offer the Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan under Title 15, Subtitle 6 of the Health – General Article shall transfer all Plan records, data, and other information necessary to operate and administer the Senior Prescription Drug Program established under this Act to the Board of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan.

(2) Each individual enrolled in the Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan, established under Title 15, Subtitle 6 of the Health – General Article, on June 30, 2003 shall, at the option of the enrollee and subject to the payment of all necessary premiums and copayments, be automatically enrolled in the Senior Prescription Drug Program established under this Act.

(3) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the transition of enrollees from the Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan to the Senior Prescription Drug Program be accomplished without interruption of benefits for enrollees.

(4) Subsidies shall be offered to enrollees through the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program established under Title 14, Subtitle 5, Part II of the Insurance Article beginning January 1, 2006. At the end of December 31, [2009] 2010, the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program established under Title 14, Subtitle 5, Part II, as amended, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

(5) Beginning April 1, 2003, the carrier required to offer the Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy Plan under Title 15, Subtitle 6 of the Health – General Article and the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program under Title 14, Subtitle 5 of the Insurance Article shall subsidize the Plan and beginning January 1, 2006, the Program, using the value of the carrier's premium tax exemption.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, May 22, 2008.

CHAPTER 558

(House Bill 1492)

AN ACT concerning