

# HOUSE BILL 489

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By: ~~Delegate Hammen~~ Delegates Hammen, Angel, Barron, Bromwell, Cullison, Hayes, Hill, Kelly, Kipke, Krebs, McDonough, McMillan, Miele, Morgan, Morhaim, Oaks, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Rose, Saab, Sample-Hughes, West, and K. Young

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Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 15, 2016

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Termination of Maryland Health Insurance Plan, Transfer of Senior**  
3 **Prescription Drug Assistance Program, and Funding for State Reinsurance**  
4 **Program**

5 FOR the purpose of repealing provisions of law establishing the Maryland Health  
6 Insurance Plan (MHIP); repealing provisions of law establishing the Board of  
7 Directors for MHIP; repealing provisions of law establishing the Maryland Health  
8 Insurance Plan Fund (MHIP Fund); repealing provisions of law governing the  
9 standard benefit package to be offered by MHIP and requiring MHIP to be the  
10 alternative mechanism for certain individuals under a certain federal law; repealing  
11 the duties of the Maryland Insurance Commissioner relating to MHIP; altering the  
12 contents of the Health Care Coverage Fund by removing money transferred to the  
13 Fund from the MHIP Fund; repealing a requirement for the Health Services Cost  
14 Review Commission to assess a certain amount in hospital rates to operate and  
15 administer MHIP; repealing the ceiling on a certain hospital assessment; repealing  
16 the authorization for certain funds to be used for the State Reinsurance Program;  
17 repealing the exemption from taxation for MHIP and the Senior Prescription Drug  
18 Assistance Program (Program); transferring the Program from the Board of  
19 Directors for MHIP to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on a certain  
20 date; repealing the requirement for the Board of Directors for MHIP to contract with  
21 a third party to administer the Program; requiring the Department to administer  
22 the Program; establishing the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program Fund

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(Fund) as a special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund; requiring the Department to administer the Fund; requiring the State Treasurer to hold the Fund separately and the Comptroller to account for the Fund; specifying the contents of the Fund; specifying the purposes for which the Fund may be used; establishing certain conditions on the use of the Fund for a certain purpose; providing for the investment of money in and expenditures from the Fund; requiring the Program to have a certain budget code; repealing the segregated account for the Program in the MHIP Fund; repealing a requirement for the Board of Directors for MHIP to report on certain information about the Program; altering the period of time during which the subsidy from a certain nonprofit health service plan for the Program may not exceed a certain amount; requiring the nonprofit health service plan to transfer certain funds for the Program to the Fund, instead of the separate account within the MHIP Fund; requiring certain premium tax revenue collected by the Maryland Insurance Administration to be deposited into the Fund, instead of the MHIP Fund; deleting the MHIP Fund from, and adding the Fund to, the list of funds for which interest earnings do not accrue to the General Fund of the State; altering the contents of the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Fund to include revenues transferred from the MHIP Fund before a certain date, instead of revenues from the separate account of the MHIP Fund; requiring funds transferred to the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Fund from the MHIP Fund before a certain date to be placed in the account for the State Reinsurance Program and used only for a specified purpose; repealing a requirement that the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange obtain approval of the Board of Directors for MHIP to use certain revenue to fund the State Reinsurance Program; requiring the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to use certain funds to fund the State Reinsurance Program; repealing obsolete provisions of law establishing a Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program; defining a certain term; repealing certain definitions; making certain conforming changes; extending the termination date of the Program; repealing obsolete provisions of law relating to a carrier required to offer a certain drug subsidy plan; authorizing a certain amount of a certain fund balance to be used in certain fiscal years to support certain expenses of MHIP; requiring the Department to provide funds to the Administrator of the Program, in accordance with a certain contract, for certain costs; providing for the transfer of certain employees, books and records, property, equipment, fixtures, assets, liabilities, obligations, and credits; ~~requiring the contract for the Administrator of the Program to remain in force until a certain date~~; providing that certain employees transferred to the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and the Department as a result of this Act shall be transferred without diminution of certain rights, benefits, employment, or retirement status; and generally relating to the termination of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan, the transfer of the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program, and funding for the State Reinsurance Program.

BY repealing

Article – Insurance

Section 14–501 through 14–509, the subtitle “Subtitle 5. Programs for Medically Uninsurable and Underinsured Individuals”, and the part “Part I. Maryland Health Insurance Plan”

- 1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)
- 3 BY transferring  
4 Article – Insurance  
5 Section 14–510 through 14–515, respectively, and the part “Part II. Senior  
6 Prescription Drug Assistance Program”  
7 Annotated Code of Maryland  
8 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)  
9 to be  
10 Article – Health – General  
11 Section 15–1001 through 15–1006, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 10. Senior  
12 Prescription Drug Assistance Program”  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2015 Replacement Volume)
- 15 BY repealing  
16 Article – Health – General  
17 Section 15–124  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2015 Replacement Volume)
- 20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
21 Article – Health – General  
22 Section 15–701(a) and (b)  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2015 Replacement Volume)
- 25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
26 Article – Health – General  
27 Section 15–701(f) and (i)(4) and 19–214(d)  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland  
29 (2015 Replacement Volume)
- 30 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
31 Article – Health – General  
32 Section 15–1001 through 15–1006  
33 Annotated Code of Maryland  
34 (2015 Replacement Volume)  
35 (As enacted by Section 2 of this Act)
- 36 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
37 Article – Insurance  
38 Section 6–101(b), 14–106, 14–106.2, 14–107, 31–107, and 31–117(c)(3)  
39 Annotated Code of Maryland  
40 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

1 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
2 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
3 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2015 Replacement Volume)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
8 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)24.  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2015 Replacement Volume)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Chapter 153 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002, as amended by Chapter  
13 282 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005, Chapter 345 of the Acts of  
14 the General Assembly of 2006, Chapter 509 of the Acts of the General  
15 Assembly of 2007, Chapter 558 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2008,  
16 Chapter 119 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2010, Chapter 27 of the  
17 Acts of the General Assembly of 2012, and Chapter 84 of the Acts of the  
18 General Assembly of 2014  
19 Section 13

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
21 Chapter 489 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2015  
22 Section 9

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
24 That Section(s) 14–501 through 14–509, the subtitle “Subtitle 5. Programs for Medically  
25 Uninsurable and Underinsured Individuals”, and the part “Part I. Maryland Health  
26 Insurance Plan” of Article – Insurance of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 14–510 through  
28 14–515, respectively, and the part “Part II. Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program”  
29 of Article – Insurance of the Annotated Code of Maryland be transferred to be Section(s)  
30 15–1001 through 15–1006, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 10. Senior Prescription  
31 Drug Assistance Program” of Article – Health – General of the Annotated Code of  
32 Maryland.

33 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
34 as follows:

35 **Article – Health – General**

36 [15–124.

37 (a) The Department shall maintain a Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program  
38 for low income individuals not eligible for Medicare whose:

1 (1) Assets are not more than the level established by the federal Centers  
2 for Medicare and Medicaid Services under the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program;  
3 and

4 (2) Gross annual income does not exceed 116% of the federal poverty  
5 guidelines for an individual, or 100% of the federal poverty guidelines for a family of two or  
6 more.

7 (b) (1) (i) Reimbursement under the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance  
8 Program may be limited to maintenance drugs, anti-infectives, and AZT as specified in  
9 regulations to be issued by the Secretary after consultation with the Maryland Pharmacists  
10 Association.

11 (ii) 1. For any drug on the Program's interchangeable drug list,  
12 the Program shall reimburse providers in an amount not more than it would reimburse for  
13 the drug's generic equivalent, unless the individual's physician states, in his or her own  
14 handwriting, on the face of the prescription, that a specific brand is "medically necessary"  
15 for the particular patient.

16 2. If an appropriate generic drug is not generally available,  
17 the Department may waive the reimbursement requirement under subsubparagraph 1 of  
18 this subparagraph.

19 (2) The reimbursement shall be up to the amount paid for the same items  
20 or services under the pharmacy program of the Maryland Medical Assistance Program and  
21 shall be subject to a copayment of not more than:

22 (i) \$2.50 for a generic drug or a brand name drug on a preferred  
23 drug list established by the Department; and

24 (ii) \$7.50 for a brand name drug not on a preferred drug list  
25 established by the Department.

26 (c) (1) Except as provided under paragraph (4) of this subsection and unless  
27 the change is made by an emergency regulation, the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance  
28 Program shall notify all pharmacies under contract with the Program in writing of changes  
29 in the Pharmaceutical Benefit Program rules or requirements at least 30 days before the  
30 change is effective.

31 (2) Changes that require 30 days' advance written notice under paragraph  
32 (1) of this subsection are:

33 (i) Exclusion of coverage for classes of drugs as specified by contract;

34 (ii) Changes in prior or preauthorization procedures; and

1 (iii) Selection of new prescription claims processors.

2 (3) If the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program fails to provide advance  
3 notice as required under paragraph (1) of this subsection, it shall honor and pay in full any  
4 claim under the Program rules or requirements that existed before the change for 30 days  
5 after the postmarked date of the notice.

6 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the notice requirements of  
7 this subsection do not apply to the addition of new generic drugs authorized under  
8 § 12–504 of the Health Occupations Article.

9 (d) (1) The Secretary shall adopt rules and regulations that authorize the  
10 denial, restriction, or termination of eligibility for recipients who have abused benefits  
11 under the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program.

12 (2) As a condition of participation, the Department may require Maryland  
13 Pharmacy Assistance Program participants to apply for eligibility in the Maryland Medical  
14 Assistance Program within 60 days of notification to do so by the Department.

15 (3) The rules and regulations shall require that the recipient be given  
16 notice and an opportunity for a hearing before eligibility may be denied, restricted, or  
17 terminated under this subsection.

18 (e) The Secretary shall develop a program, in consultation with appropriate  
19 agencies, that will provide information to ineligible Maryland Pharmacy Assistance  
20 Program applicants regarding other programs that they may be eligible for including the  
21 Maryland Medbank Program established under § 15–124.2 of this subtitle and the Senior  
22 Prescription Drug Assistance Program established under Title 14, Subtitle 5 of the  
23 Insurance Article.]

24 15–701.

25 (a) In this subtitle, “Fund” means the Health Care Coverage Fund.

26 (b) There is a Health Care Coverage Fund.

27 (f) The Fund consists of:

28 [(1) Money transferred from the Maryland Health Insurance Plan Fund;]

29 [(2) (1) Money collected from any assessment by the State Health  
30 Services Cost Review Commission on hospitals under § 19–214(d) of this article;

31 [(3) (2) Any money made available from investment earnings; and

32 [(4) (3) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit  
33 of the Fund.

1 (i) (4) Money [transferred from the Maryland Health Insurance Plan Fund  
2 or] collected from an assessment by the State Health Services Cost Review Commission on  
3 hospitals may not be used for the purpose of this subsection.

4 Subtitle 10. Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program.

5 15–1001.

6 (a) In [Part II of] this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

7 (b) “Eligible individual” means an individual who:

8 (1) Is a resident of Maryland;

9 (2) Is a Medicare beneficiary enrolled in the Medicare Part D Voluntary  
10 Prescription Drug Benefit Program or a Medicare Advantage Plan that provides Part D  
11 coverage;

12 (3) Is not enrolled in a health benefit plan, other than a Medicare Part D  
13 prescription drug plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan, that provides prescription drug  
14 benefits at the time that the individual applies for enrollment in the Program;

15 (4) Has an annual household income at or below 300% of the federal  
16 poverty guidelines;

17 (5) Is not eligible for a full federal low–income subsidy under 42 C.F.R. §  
18 423.772; and

19 (6) Pays the premium, and copayments or coinsurance, for the Program.

20 (c) “Enrollee” means an individual enrolled in the Program.

21 (d) **“FUND” MEANS THE SENIOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE**  
22 **PROGRAM FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 15–1004 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

23 (E) “Program” means the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program  
24 established under [Part II of] this subtitle.

25 15–1002.

26 (a) There is a Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program.

27 (b) The purpose of the Program is to provide Medicare Part D beneficiaries, who  
28 meet Program eligibility requirements, with a State subsidy.

1 (c) The [Board shall contract with a third party to] **DEPARTMENT SHALL**  
2 administer the Program.

3 [(d) The Administrator of the Program shall:

4 (1) Submit a detailed financial accounting of the Program to the Board as  
5 often as the Board requires;

6 (2) Collect and submit to the Board data regarding the utilization patterns  
7 and costs for Program enrollees; and

8 (3) Develop and implement a marketing plan targeted at eligible  
9 individuals throughout the State.]

10 15–1003.

11 (a) The Program shall:

12 (1) Provide a prescription drug benefit subsidy, as determined by the  
13 [Board] **DEPARTMENT**, that may pay all or some of the deductibles, coinsurance  
14 payments, premiums, and copayments under the federal Medicare Part D Pharmaceutical  
15 Assistance Program for enrollees of the Program; and

16 (2) Provide the subsidy to the maximum number of individuals eligible for  
17 enrollment in the Program, subject to the moneys available in the [segregated account  
18 under § 14–504 of this subtitle] **FUND**.

19 (b) The Program may limit payment of any subsidy by paying the subsidy only on  
20 behalf of eligible individuals enrolled in a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan or  
21 Medicare Advantage Plan that coordinates with the Program in accordance with federal  
22 requirements.

23 (c) The Program:

24 (1) May annually provide an additional subsidy, up to the full amount of  
25 the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan premium, for individuals who qualify for a  
26 partial federal low-income subsidy; and

27 (2) Shall annually provide an additional subsidy up to the full amount of  
28 the Medicare Part D coverage gap, subject to the availability of:

29 (i) Funds provided under § 14–106.2 of [this title] **THE INSURANCE**  
30 **ARTICLE**; and

31 (ii) Any other funds available for this purpose.



1 (d) The [Program] DEPARTMENT shall maintain a waiting list of individuals  
2 who meet the eligibility requirements for the Program but who are not served by the  
3 Program due to funding limitations.

4 (e) The [Board] DEPARTMENT shall determine annually:

5 (1) The number of individuals to be enrolled in the Program;

6 (2) The amount of subsidy to be provided under subsections (a) and (c)(2)  
7 of this section; and

8 (3) The amount of any additional subsidy provided under subsection (c)(1)  
9 of this section.

10 [(f) On or before January 1 of each year, the Board, in accordance with § 2–1246  
11 of the State Government Article, shall report to the General Assembly on:

12 (1) The number of individuals on the waiting list for the Program; and

13 (2) To the extent that the Board is able to collect the information:

14 (i) The number of enrollees with out-of-pocket prescription drug  
15 costs that exceed \$2,250, broken down for each fiscal quarter; and

16 (ii) The total annual out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for  
17 enrollees.]

18 15–1004.

19 [(a) Funds for the Program shall be deposited:

20 (1) To a segregated account in the Fund established under § 14–504 of this  
21 subtitle; or

22 (2) To a separate account for the Program established by the Program  
23 Administrator.

24 (b) The segregated account shall include:

25 (1) Interest and investment income attributable to Program funds; and

26 (2) Money deposited to the account by a nonprofit health service plan, in  
27 accordance with subsections (c) and (d) of this section.]

28 (A) THERE IS A SENIOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
29 FUND.

1           **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATION,**  
2 **OPERATION, AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM.**

3           **(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

4           **(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**  
5 **SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

6           **(2) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY,**  
7 **AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

8           **(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

9                   **(1) MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND BY A NONPROFIT HEALTH**  
10 **SERVICE PLAN UNDER §§ 14-106(D) AND 14-106.2 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE;**

11                   **(2) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE FUND;**

12                   **(3) INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND**

13                   **(4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR**  
14 **THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

15           **(F) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
16 **THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, OPERATION, AND**  
17 **ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM.**

18                   **(2) EXCESS FUNDS NOT REQUIRED FOR THE ADMINISTRATION,**  
19 **OPERATION, AND ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAM:**

20                           **(I) MAY BE USED ONLY TO SUBSIDIZE:**

21                                   **1. THE KIDNEY DISEASE PROGRAM UNDER TITLE 13,**  
22 **SUBTITLE 3 OF THIS ARTICLE; OR**

23                                   **2. THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO**  
24 **THE UNINSURED UNDER TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND**

25                           **(II) MAY BE EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSES IN ITEM (I) OF THIS**  
26 **PARAGRAPH ONLY:**

27                                   **1. THROUGH A TRANSFER OF FUNDS BY BUDGET**  
28 **AMENDMENT; AND**

1                   **2. AFTER:**

2                   **A. THE BUDGET AMENDMENT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO**  
3 **THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES; AND**

4                   **B. THE BUDGET COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL**  
5 **ASSEMBLY HAVE CONSIDERED THE BUDGET AMENDMENT OR 45 DAYS HAVE**  
6 **ELAPSED FROM THE DATE OF SUBMISSION OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE**  
7 **DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES.**

8                   **(G) (1) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND**  
9 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

10                   **(2) ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO**  
11 **THE FUND.**

12                   **(H) (1) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN**  
13 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

14                   **(2) THE PROGRAM SHALL HAVE ITS OWN PROGRAM CODE WITHIN**  
15 **THE STATE BUDGET.**

16                   **[(c) (I) (1) [On or before April 1, 2003] BEGINNING JULY 1, 2016,** and  
17 **quarterly thereafter, the nonprofit health service plan required to subsidize the Program**  
18 **under § 14–106(d) of [this title] THE INSURANCE ARTICLE shall deposit to the Fund**  
19 **[under § 14–504 of this subtitle] the amount that is necessary to operate and administer**  
20 **the Program for the following quarter.**

21                   **(2) The amount deposited shall be determined by the [Board]**  
22 **DEPARTMENT based on enrollment, expenditures, and revenue for the previous year.**

23                   **(3) The amount required by the [Board] DEPARTMENT under paragraph**  
24 **(2) of this subsection may not exceed the amounts specified in § 14–106(e) of [this title]**  
25 **THE INSURANCE ARTICLE.**

26                   **[(4) The Board shall provide funds to the Administrator, in accordance with**  
27 **the terms of the contract with the Administrator, for the cost of the State subsidy and**  
28 **administrative expenses incurred on behalf of the Program.**

29                   **(d) In addition to the amount deposited under subsection (c) of this section, a**  
30 **nonprofit health service plan shall deposit in the Fund under § 14–504 of this subtitle the**  
31 **amount required under § 14–106.2 of this title to be used for the purpose of subsidizing the**  
32 **Medicare Part D coverage gap.]**

33 15–1005.

1 (a) On or before June 30 of each year, the [Board] **DEPARTMENT** shall submit a  
2 report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article,  
3 to the General Assembly that includes a summary of Program activities for the year and  
4 any recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.

5 (b) (1) The [Board] **DEPARTMENT** shall adopt regulations to carry out [Part  
6 II of] this subtitle.

7 (2) The [Board] **DEPARTMENT** may adopt regulations that require an  
8 insurance producer to receive training about the Program before the insurance producer  
9 may market the Program or assist a Medicare beneficiary to enroll in the Program.

10 (3) Subject to § 10–116(d) of [this article] **THE INSURANCE ARTICLE**,  
11 training received under paragraph (2) of this subsection qualifies as continuing education  
12 under § 10–116(a) of [this article] **THE INSURANCE ARTICLE**.

13 15–1006.

14 (a) For the purpose of maximizing participation in the Program, the [Board]  
15 **DEPARTMENT** may develop outreach materials for distribution to eligible individuals.

16 (b) The [Board] **DEPARTMENT** shall publicize the existence and eligibility  
17 requirements of the Program through the following entities:

18 (1) The Department of Aging;

19 (2) Local health departments;

20 (3) Continuing care retirement communities;

21 (4) Places of worship;

22 (5) Civic organizations;

23 (6) Community pharmacies; and

24 (7) Any other entity that the [Board] **DEPARTMENT** determines  
25 appropriate.

26 (c) The Department of Aging, through its Senior Health Insurance Program,  
27 shall:

28 (1) Assist eligible individuals in applying for coverage under the Program;

29 and

1 (2) Provide notice of the Program and its eligibility requirements to  
2 potentially eligible individuals who seek health insurance counseling services through the  
3 Department of Aging.

4 (d) The [Board] DEPARTMENT shall develop a mail-in application for the  
5 Program.

6 (e) Any outreach performed by the [Board] DEPARTMENT on behalf of the  
7 Program shall be funded through the [Program's segregated account within the] Fund.

8 19-214.

9 (d) (1) Each year, the Commission shall assess a uniform, broad-based, and  
10 reasonable amount in hospital rates to[:

11 (i) Reflect] REFLECT the aggregate reduction in hospital  
12 uncompensated care realized from the expansion of health care coverage under Chapter 7  
13 of the Acts of the 2007 Special Session of the General Assembly[; and

14 (ii) Operate and administer the Maryland Health Insurance Plan  
15 established under Title 14, Subtitle 5 of the Insurance Article].

16 (2) (i) [For the portion of the assessment under paragraph (1)(i) of this  
17 subsection:]

18 1. The Commission shall ensure that the assessment amount  
19 equals 1.25% of projected regulated net patient revenue[; and].

20 2. Each hospital shall remit its assessment amount to the  
21 Health Care Coverage Fund established under § 15-701 of this article.

22 (ii) Any savings realized in averted uncompensated care as a result  
23 of the expansion of health care coverage under Chapter 7 of the Acts of the 2007 Special  
24 Session of the General Assembly that are not subject to the assessment under paragraph  
25 [(1)(i)] (1) of this subsection shall be shared among purchasers of hospital services in a  
26 manner that the Commission determines is most equitable.

27 [(3) For the portion of the assessment under paragraph (1)(ii) of this  
28 subsection:

29 (i) The Commission shall ensure that the assessment:

30 1. Shall be included in the reasonable costs of each hospital  
31 when establishing the hospital's rates;



1 (3) a surplus lines broker, who is subject to taxation in accordance with  
2 Title 3, Subtitle 3 of this article;

3 (4) an unauthorized insurer, who is subject to taxation in accordance with  
4 Title 4, Subtitle 2 of this article;

5 (5) [the Maryland Health Insurance Plan established under Title 14,  
6 Subtitle 5, Part I of this article;

7 (6) the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program established under  
8 Title 14, Subtitle 5, Part II of this article;

9 (7) a nonprofit health maintenance organization authorized by Title 19,  
10 Subtitle 7 of the Health – General Article that is exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3) of  
11 the Internal Revenue Code; and

12 [(8) (6) a qualified nonprofit health insurance issuer that is established  
13 under § 1322 of the Affordable Care Act.

14 14–106.

15 (a) It is the public policy of this State that the exemption from taxation for  
16 nonprofit health service plans under § 6–101(b)(1) of this article is granted so that funds  
17 which would otherwise be collected by the State and spent for a public purpose shall be  
18 used in a like manner and amount by the nonprofit health service plan.

19 (b) By March 1 of each year or a deadline otherwise imposed by the Commissioner  
20 for good cause, each nonprofit health service plan shall file with the Commissioner a  
21 premium tax exemption report that:

22 (1) is in a form approved by the Commissioner; and

23 (2) demonstrates that the plan has used funds equal to the value of the  
24 premium tax exemption provided to the plan under § 6–101(b) of this article, in a manner  
25 that serves the public interest in accordance with this section.

26 (c) A nonprofit health service plan may satisfy the public service requirement of  
27 this section by establishing that, to the extent the value of the nonprofit health service  
28 plan's premium tax exemption under § 6–101(b) of this article exceeds the subsidy required  
29 under the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program established under [Subtitle 5, Part  
30 II of this title] **TITLE 15, SUBTITLE 10 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE**, the plan  
31 has:

32 (1) increased access to, or the affordability of, one or more health care  
33 products or services by offering and selling health care products or services that are not  
34 required or provided for by law;

1 (2) provided financial or in-kind support for public health programs;

2 (3) employed underwriting standards in a manner that increases the  
3 availability of one or more health care services or products;

4 (4) employed pricing policies that enhance the affordability of health care  
5 services or products and result in a higher medical loss ratio than that established by a  
6 comparable for-profit health insurer; or

7 (5) served the public interest by any method or practice approved by the  
8 Commissioner.

9 (d) (1) Notwithstanding subsection (c) of this section, a nonprofit health  
10 service plan that is subject to this section and issues comprehensive health care benefits in  
11 the State shall:

12 (i) offer health care products in the individual market;

13 (ii) offer health care products in the small employer group market in  
14 accordance with Title 15, Subtitle 12 of this article;

15 (iii) subsidize the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program  
16 established under [Subtitle 5, Part II of this title] **TITLE 15, SUBTITLE 10 OF THE**  
17 **HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE;**

18 (iv) subsidize the Kidney Disease Program under Title 13, Subtitle 3  
19 of the Health – General Article;

20 (v) support the costs of the Community Health Resources  
21 Commission under Title 19, Subtitle 21 of the Health – General Article, including:

22 1. operating grants to community health resources;

23 2. funding for a unified data information system;

24 3. the documented direct costs of fulfilling the statutory and  
25 regulatory duties of the Commission; and

26 4. the administrative costs of the Commission; and

27 (vi) subsidize the provision of mental health services to the  
28 uninsured under Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the Health – General Article.

29 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the  
30 support provided under paragraph (1)(iv), (v), and (vi) of this subsection to the Kidney  
31 Disease Program, the Community Health Resources Commission, and the Department of  
32 Health and Mental Hygiene, respectively, shall be the value of the premium tax exemption



1 less the subsidy required under this subsection for the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance  
2 Program.

3 (ii) The subsidy provided under this subsection to the Community  
4 Health Resources Commission may not be less than:

- 5 1. \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 and 2013; and  
6 2. \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year  
7 thereafter.

8 (3) For any year, the subsidy and funding required under this subsection  
9 by a nonprofit health service plan subject to this section may not exceed the value of the  
10 nonprofit health service plan's premium tax exemption under § 6–101(b) of this article.

11 (e) The subsidy that a nonprofit health service plan is required to provide to the  
12 Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program under subsection (d)(1)(iii) of this section  
13 may not exceed:

- 14 (1) for the period of January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006, \$8,000,000;  
15 (2) for fiscal years 2008 through [2017] **2020**, \$14,000,000; and  
16 (3) for any year, the value of the nonprofit health service plan's premium  
17 tax exemption under § 6–101(b) of this article.

18 (f) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, each report filed with the  
19 Commissioner under subsection (b) of this section is a public record.

20 (2) In accordance with § 4–335 of the General Provisions Article, the  
21 Commissioner shall deny inspection of any part of a report filed under subsection (b) of this  
22 section that the Commissioner determines contains confidential commercial information or  
23 confidential financial information.

24 14–106.2.

25 (a) This section applies to a corporation that is:

- 26 (1) issued a certificate of authority as a nonprofit health service plan; and  
27 (2) the sole member of a corporation issued a certificate of authority as a  
28 nonprofit health service plan.

29 (b) Except as provided under subsection (c) of this section, beginning with the  
30 calendar year that starts on January 1, 2009, and each calendar year thereafter, a  
31 corporation subject to this section shall transfer \$4,000,000 to the [separate account for  
32 the] Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program [within the Maryland Health Insurance

1 Plan] Fund established under [§ 14–504 of this title] **§ 15–1004 OF THE HEALTH –**  
2 **GENERAL ARTICLE** if the corporation has a surplus that exceeds 800% of the consolidated  
3 risk–based capital requirements applicable to the corporation based on the corporation’s  
4 annual required statutory filing due March 1 of the most recent preceding calendar year  
5 for which:

6 (1) the corporation has filed an annual statement with the Administration;  
7 and

8 (2) the filing of the annual statement preceded the start of the calendar  
9 year for which payment is to be made.

10 (c) A corporation is not required to make the transfer under subsection (b) of this  
11 section if:

12 (1) the surplus of the corporation does not exceed 800% of the consolidated  
13 risk–based capital requirements applicable to the corporation in the most recent preceding  
14 calendar year for which:

15 (i) the corporation has filed an annual statement with the  
16 Administration; and

17 (ii) the filing of the annual statement preceded the start of the  
18 calendar year for which payment is to be made; or

19 (2) the federal government eliminates the coverage gap in the Medicare  
20 Part D prescription drug benefit.

21 (d) (1) On or before September 1 of each year, a corporation that is subject to  
22 this section shall notify the [Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program] **DEPARTMENT**  
23 **OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE** whether the corporation will transfer \$4,000,000 to  
24 the **SENIOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE** Program **FUND** under this section  
25 during the calendar year that starts on the immediately following January 1.

26 (2) The corporation’s determination on the transfer of funds shall be based  
27 on the risk–based capital calculation that is due on March 1 of the same calendar year in  
28 which the corporation gives the notice required under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

29 (e) A corporation that is subject to this section shall pay the \$4,000,000 to the  
30 Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program **FUND** in quarterly installments of  
31 \$1,000,000, beginning not later than October 1 for the calendar year that starts on the  
32 immediately following January 1.

33 (f) The transfer of funds that a corporation is required to make to the Senior  
34 Prescription Drug Assistance Program **FUND** under subsection (b) of this section:

1 (1) is in addition to the subsidy that a nonprofit health service plan is  
2 required to provide to the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program under  
3 § 14–106(d)(1)(iii) of this subtitle; and

4 (2) is not subject to the limitation on the amount of the subsidy to the  
5 Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program imposed by § 14–106(e) of this subtitle.

6 14–107.

7 (a) By November 1 of each year, the Commissioner shall issue an order notifying  
8 each nonprofit health service plan that is required to file a report under § 14–106 of this  
9 subtitle of whether the plan has satisfied the requirements of § 14–106 of this subtitle.

10 (b) If the Commissioner determines that a nonprofit health service plan has not  
11 satisfied the requirements of § 14–106 of this subtitle, the Commissioner shall issue an  
12 order requiring the nonprofit health service plan to pay the premium tax under Title 6,  
13 Subtitle 1 of this article:

14 (1) for a period of time beginning with the date the plan was determined to  
15 be out of compliance with § 14–106 of this subtitle; and

16 (2) in an amount equal to the amount by which the value of the nonprofit  
17 health service plan's premium tax exemption under § 6–101(b) of this article exceeds the  
18 sum of:

19 (i) the subsidy required under the Senior Prescription Drug  
20 Assistance Program established under [Subtitle 5, Part II of this title] **TITLE 15,**  
21 **SUBTITLE 10 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE;** and

22 (ii) other funds used by the nonprofit health service plan to meet the  
23 public service requirement under § 14–106 of this subtitle.

24 (c) A nonprofit health service plan that fails to timely file the report required  
25 under § 14–106 of this subtitle shall pay the penalties under § 14–121 of this subtitle.

26 (d) A party aggrieved by an order of the Commissioner issued under this section  
27 has a right to a hearing in accordance with §§ 2–210 through 2–215 of this article.

28 (e) Premium tax revenue collected by the Administration as the result of an order  
29 issued under subsection (b) of this section shall be deposited into the [Maryland Health  
30 Insurance Plan Fund established under § 14–504 of this title] **SENIOR PRESCRIPTION**  
31 **DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 15–1004 OF THE**  
32 **HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE.**

33 31–107.

1 (a) There is a Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Fund.

2 (b) (1) The purpose of the Fund is to:

3 (i) provide funding for the operation and administration of the  
4 Exchange in carrying out the purposes of the Exchange under this title; and

5 (ii) provide funding for the establishment and operation of the State  
6 Reinsurance Program authorized under § 31–117 of this title.

7 (2) The operation and administration of the Exchange and the State  
8 Reinsurance Program may include functions delegated by the Exchange to a third party  
9 under law or by contract.

10 (c) The Exchange shall administer the Fund.

11 (d) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of  
12 the State Finance and Procurement Article.

13 (2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the  
14 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

15 (e) The Fund consists of:

16 (1) any user fees or other assessments collected by the Exchange;

17 (2) all revenue deposited into the Fund that is received from the  
18 distribution of the premium tax under § 6–103.2 of this article;

19 (3) all revenue [that is deposited into the Fund under § 14–504(d) of this  
20 article from the separate account of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan Fund that holds  
21 money collected under § 19–214(d)(1)(ii) of the Health – General Article] **TRANSFERRED**  
22 **TO THE FUND BEFORE JULY 1, 2016, FROM THE MARYLAND HEALTH INSURANCE**  
23 **PLAN FUND;**

24 (4) income from investments made on behalf of the Fund;

25 (5) interest on deposits or investments of money in the Fund;

26 (6) money collected by the Board as a result of legal or other actions taken  
27 by the Board on behalf of the Exchange or the Fund;

28 (7) money donated to the Fund;

29 (8) money awarded to the Fund through grants; and

1           (9)    any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the  
2 Fund.

3           (f)    The Fund may be used only:

4                (1)   for the operation and administration of the Exchange in carrying out  
5 the purposes authorized under this title; and

6                (2)   for the establishment and operation of the State Reinsurance Program  
7 authorized under § 31–117 of this title.

8           (g)   (1)   The Board shall maintain separate accounts within the Fund for  
9 Exchange operations and for the State Reinsurance Program.

10               (2)   Accounts within the Fund shall contain those moneys that are intended  
11 to support the purpose for which each account is designated.

12               (3)   Funds received from the distribution of the premium tax under  
13 § 6–103.2 of this article shall be placed in the account for Exchange operations and may be  
14 used only for the purpose of funding the operation and administration of the Exchange.

15               **(4) FUNDS TRANSFERRED FROM THE MARYLAND HEALTH**  
16 **INSURANCE PLAN FUND BEFORE JULY 1, 2016, SHALL BE PLACED IN THE ACCOUNT**  
17 **FOR THE STATE REINSURANCE PROGRAM AND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR THE**  
18 **PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE STATE REINSURANCE PROGRAM.**

19           (h)   (1)   Expenditures from the Fund for the purposes authorized by this  
20 subtitle may be made only:

21                (i)   with an appropriation from the Fund approved by the General  
22 Assembly in the State budget; or

23                (ii)  by the budget amendment procedure provided for in Title 7,  
24 Subtitle 2 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

25               (2)   Notwithstanding § 7–304 of the State Finance and Procurement Article,  
26 if the amount of the distribution from the premium tax under § 6–103.2 of this article  
27 exceeds in any State fiscal year the actual expenditures incurred for the operation and  
28 administration of the Exchange, funds in the Exchange operations account from the  
29 premium tax that remain unspent at the end of the State fiscal year shall revert to the  
30 General Fund of the State.

31               (3)   If operating expenses of the Exchange may be charged to either State  
32 or non–State fund sources, the non–State funds shall be charged before State funds are  
33 charged.

1 (i) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same  
2 manner as other State money may be invested.

3 (2) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

4 (3) Except as provided in subsection (h)(2) of this section, no part of the  
5 Fund may revert or be credited to the General Fund or any special fund of the State.

6 (j) A debt or an obligation of the Fund is not a debt of the State or a pledge of  
7 credit of the State.

8 31–117.

9 (c) (3) (i) The Exchange, in consultation with the Maryland Health Care  
10 Commission and with the approval of the Commissioner, may establish a State  
11 Reinsurance Program to take effect on or after January 1, 2014.

12 (ii) The purpose of the State Reinsurance Program is to mitigate the  
13 impact of high-risk individuals on rates in the individual insurance market inside and  
14 outside the Exchange.

15 (iii) [With the approval of and in collaboration with the Board of the  
16 Maryland Health Insurance Plan, the] **THE** Exchange [may] **SHALL** use [revenue  
17 received] **FUNDS TRANSFERRED** from the Maryland Health Insurance Plan Fund [under  
18 § 14–504(d) of this article] **BEFORE JULY 1, 2016**, to fund the State Reinsurance Program.

#### 19 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

20 6–226.

21 (a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless  
22 inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the  
23 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
24 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
25 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
26 Fund of the State.

27 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
28 to the following funds:

29 24. [Maryland Health Insurance Plan Fund] **SENIOR**  
30 **PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUND;**

31 **Chapter 153 of the Acts of 2002, as amended by Chapter 282 of the Acts of 2005,**  
32 **Chapter 345 of the Acts of 2006, Chapter 509 of the Acts of 2007, Chapter 558 of**

1 **the Acts of 2008, Chapter 119 of the Acts of 2010, Chapter 27 of the Acts of 2012,**  
2 **and Chapter 84 of the Acts of 2014**

3 SECTION 13. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

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

10 (2) Each individual enrolled in the Short-Term Prescription Drug Subsidy  
11 Plan, established under Title 15, Subtitle 6 of the Health – General Article, on June 30,  
12 2003 shall, at the option of the enrollee and subject to the payment of all necessary  
13 premiums and copayments, be automatically enrolled in the Senior Prescription Drug  
14 Program established under this Act.

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

18 (4) Subsidies shall be offered to enrollees through the Senior Prescription  
19 Drug Assistance Program established under [Title 14, Subtitle 5, Part II of the Insurance  
20 Article beginning January 1, 2006] **TITLE 15, SUBTITLE 10 OF THE**  
21 **HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE**. At the end of December 31, [2016] **2019**, the Senior  
22 Prescription Drug Assistance Program established under [Title 14, Subtitle 5, Part II, as  
23 amended,] **TITLE 15, SUBTITLE 10 OF THE HEALTH – GENERAL ARTICLE** shall be  
24 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

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

30 **Chapter 489 of the Acts of 2015**

31 SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any other  
32 provision of law:

33 (a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, for fiscal year 2015, funds in the  
34 Maryland Health Insurance Plan Fund established under § 14-504 of the Insurance Article  
35 may be used by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to fund provider  
36 reimbursements in the Medicaid program.

1 (b) The amount of funds that may be used under subsection (a) of this section  
2 shall be the greater of:

3 (1) \$55,000,000; or

4 (2) The estimated percentage of the fund balance obtained from payers  
5 other than the federal Medicare program or the Medicaid program.

6 (c) **(1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**  
7 **SUBSECTION, THE** remaining fund balance obtained from the federal Medicare program  
8 or the Medicaid program may be used in fiscal years 2016 through 2019 to support  
9 integrated care networks designed to reduce health care expenditures and improve  
10 outcomes for unmanaged high-needs Medicare patients and patients dually eligible for  
11 Medicaid and Medicare, consistent with the goals of Maryland's all-payer model.

12 **(2) \$90,000 OF THE REMAINING FUND BALANCE OBTAINED FROM THE**  
13 **FEDERAL MEDICARE PROGRAM OR THE MEDICAID PROGRAM MAY BE USED IN**  
14 **FISCAL YEARS 2016 AND 2017 TO SUPPORT THE REMAINING EXPENSES OF THE**  
15 **MARYLAND HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN.**

16 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

17 (a) The responsibility for administering and operating the Senior Prescription  
18 Drug Assistance Program shall be transferred to the Department of Health and Mental  
19 Hygiene on July 1, 2016.

20 (b) (1) All funds remaining in the separate account for the Senior Prescription  
21 Drug Assistance Program in the Maryland Health Insurance Plan Fund shall be  
22 transferred to the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program Fund in the Department  
23 of Health and Mental Hygiene on July 1, 2016, and shall be used only in accordance with  
24 § 15-1004 of the Health – General Article, as enacted by Section 3 of this Act.

25 (2) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide funds to  
26 the Administrator of the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program, in accordance with  
27 the terms of the contract with the Administrator, for the cost of the State subsidy and  
28 administrative expenses incurred on behalf of the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance  
29 Program.

30 (c) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, on July 1, 2016,  
31 all of the employees, books and records, including electronic records, real and personal  
32 property, equipment, fixtures, assets, liabilities, obligations, and credits of the Maryland  
33 Health Insurance Plan shall be transferred to the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

34 (2) ~~(1)~~ On July 1, 2016, all of the employees, books and records,  
35 including electronic records, real and personal property, equipment, fixtures, assets,  
36 liabilities, obligations, including the contract for the Administrator of the Senior



1 Prescription Drug Assistance Program, and credits of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan  
2 that relate directly to the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program shall be transferred  
3 to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

4 (ii) ~~The contract for the Administrator of the Senior Prescription~~  
5 ~~Drug Assistance Program shall remain in force, in accordance with the terms of the~~  
6 ~~contract, until the end of December 31, 2016.~~

7 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That all employees who are  
8 transferred to the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange and the Department of Health and  
9 Mental Hygiene as a result of this Act shall be transferred without diminution of their  
10 rights, benefits, employment, or retirement status.

11 SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
12 1, 2016.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate.