



BILL NO: HB 321

TITLE: Pharmacy Benefits Managers – Definition of Purchaser and Alterations of Application of Law

SPONSOR: Delegate Kipke

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

DATE: March 27, 2025

Baltimore County **OPPOSES** House Bill 321 – Pharmacy Benefits Managers – Definition of Purchaser and Alterations of Application of Law. The legislation seeks to limit the tools Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM's) utilize to negotiate prices on behalf of their clients which include county governments. This represents a potentially significant disruption to Baltimore County's efforts to provide our county employees with the best and most affordable benefits possible.

House Bill 321 would impose several harmful limitations, including the design of benefits plans, inhibiting management of vendor contracts, and undermining employers' ability to create necessary checks and balances to protect county employees and their financial contributions to benefit plans.

Maryland county governments are already facing unprecedented challenges, including federal and state budget cuts, declining revenues, and dramatically increased costs. The likely increases to co-pays and overall health benefit plan costs under the provisions of HB 321 to our county and staff are untenable in the current environment.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 321 from the Senate Finance Committee. For more information, please contact Sean Flanagan, Office of Government Affairs at sflanagan@baltimorecountymd.gov