

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL NO. 621

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 1, strike beginning with "Adjustments" in line 2 down through "Proposal" in line 3 and substitute "Coverage Programs"; strike beginning with "altering" in line 4 down through "Program;" in line 6 and substitute "requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop a program to encourage certain applicants to the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program to seek certain prescription coverage;"; and in lines 6 and 7, strike "of Health and Mental Hygiene".

On page 2, in line 10, strike the brackets; in the same line, strike "4.0"; in line 14, strike the brackets; in the same line, strike "\$12,200"; in line 33, strike the brackets; and in the same line, strike "2001".

On page 3, in line 23, strike the brackets; and in the same line, strike "\$6.00".

On page 4, strike in their entirety lines 16 through 26, inclusive and substitute:

"(E) THE SECRETARY SHALL DEVELOP A PROGRAM, IN CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCIES, THAT WILL ENCOURAGE APPLICANTS TO THE MARYLAND PHARMACY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO SEEK PRESCRIPTION COVERAGE THROUGH:

(1) FREE PROGRAMS OFFERED BY DRUG MANUFACTURERS; AND

(2) IF APPLICABLE, THE AIDS ADMINISTRATION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(1) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in cooperation with the Maryland Health Care Commission and other appropriate State agencies, shall study and propose a

(Over)

buy-in prescription assistance program for the elderly who have assets and incomes over the eligibility levels established under the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program.

(2) On or before December 1, 2000, the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene shall issue a final report on the proposal required under paragraph (1) of this section, including a comprehensive strategy for, and a cost estimate of, the proposal, to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly.”;

and in line 27, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”.