
By: **Senator Sfikas**
Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2001
Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program - Adjustment of Asset and Income**
3 **Levels**

4 FOR the purpose of increasing the allowable amount of certain assets and income for
5 eligibility for the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program; providing for
6 delayed effective dates for certain increases in the allowable income amount for
7 eligibility for the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program; providing for the
8 termination of certain sections of this Act; and generally relating to the
9 Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Health - General
12 Section 15-124(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2000 Replacement Volume)

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

17 **Article - Health - General**

18 15-124.

19 (a) (1) The Department shall maintain a Maryland Pharmacy Assistance
20 Program for low income individuals whose:

21 (i) Assets are not more than [1.5] 4 times the amount of
22 accountable resources according to the asset schedule of the Maryland Medical
23 Assistance Program; and

24 (ii) Gross annual COMBINED HOUSEHOLD income does not exceed[:

25 1. \$4,600 plus \$500 for each individual over 1 in a family
26 unit] 135 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES[; and

1 (ii) Gross annual COMBINED HOUSEHOLD income does not exceed[:
2 1. \$4,600 plus \$500 for each individual over 1 in a family
3 unit] 150 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES[; and

4 2. An annual increase set by the Secretary under paragraph
5 (2)(ii)4 of this subsection].

6 (2) (i) 1. In this paragraph the following words have the meanings
7 indicated.

8 2. "Income disregard" means the exclusion of up to \$1,000 of
9 annual income earned by an individual as a client of a sheltered workshop if the
10 individual's sole other income is derived from a Social Security payment.

11 3. "Sheltered workshop" means a workshop licensed by the
12 Developmental Disabilities Administration under Title 7, Subtitle 9 of this article.

13 (ii) For the purpose of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the
14 Secretary shall:

15 1. In order to determine eligibility for the Maryland
16 Pharmacy Assistance Program, deduct any income disregards from the countable
17 gross income of a unit that contains a disabled individual;

18 2. Define excluded assets; AND

19 3. Establish a family unit structure[; and

20 4. Beginning July 1, 1985, increase annually at the time
21 Social Security benefits are increased, rounded to the next highest even \$50 level, the
22 income level within which an individual is eligible for benefits under the Maryland
23 Pharmacy Assistance Program by the larger of:

24 A. The percentage by which benefits under Title II of the
25 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401-433) are increased by the federal government due
26 to cost-of-living changes as that percentage is reported in the Federal Register
27 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 415(I)(2)(D) but not to exceed 8 percent; or

28 B. The dollar amount by which the medical assistance income
29 schedules are increased by the State].

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

1 **Article - Health - General**

2 15-124.

3 (a) (1) The Department shall maintain a Maryland Pharmacy Assistance
4 Program for low income individuals whose:5 (i) Assets are not more than [1.5] 4 times the amount of
6 accountable resources according to the asset schedule of the Maryland Medical
7 Assistance Program; and

8 (ii) Gross annual COMBINED HOUSEHOLD income does not exceed[:

9 1. \$4,600 plus \$500 for each individual over 1 in a family
10 unit] 200 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES[; and11 2. An annual increase set by the Secretary under paragraph
12 (2)(ii)4 of this subsection].13 (2) (i) 1. In this paragraph the following words have the meanings
14 indicated.15 2. "Income disregard" means the exclusion of up to \$1,000 of
16 annual income earned by an individual as a client of a sheltered workshop if the
17 individual's sole other income is derived from a Social Security payment.18 3. "Sheltered workshop" means a workshop licensed by the
19 Developmental Disabilities Administration under Title 7, Subtitle 9 of this article.20 (ii) For the purpose of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the
21 Secretary shall:22 1. In order to determine eligibility for the Maryland
23 Pharmacy Assistance Program, deduct any income disregards from the countable
24 gross income of a unit that contains a disabled individual;

25 2. Define excluded assets; AND

26 3. Establish a family unit structure[; and

27 4. Beginning July 1, 1985, increase annually at the time
28 Social Security benefits are increased, rounded to the next highest even \$50 level, the
29 income level within which an individual is eligible for benefits under the Maryland
30 Pharmacy Assistance Program by the larger of:31 A. The percentage by which benefits under Title II of the
32 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401-433) are increased by the federal government due
33 to cost-of-living changes as that percentage is reported in the Federal Register
34 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 415(I)(2)(D) but not to exceed 8 percent; or

1 B. The dollar amount by which the medical assistance income
2 schedules are increased by the State].

3 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
4 read as follows:

5 **Article - Health - General**

6 15-124.

7 (a) (1) The Department shall maintain a Maryland Pharmacy Assistance
8 Program for low income individuals whose:

9 (i) Assets are not more than [1.5] 4 times the amount of
10 accountable resources according to the asset schedule of the Maryland Medical
11 Assistance Program; and

12 (ii) Gross annual COMBINED HOUSEHOLD income does not exceed[:

13 1. \$4,600 plus \$500 for each individual over 1 in a family
14 unit] 250 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES[; and

15 2. An annual increase set by the Secretary under paragraph
16 (2)(ii)4 of this subsection].

17 (2) (i) 1. In this paragraph the following words have the meanings
18 indicated.

19 2. "Income disregard" means the exclusion of up to \$1,000 of
20 annual income earned by an individual as a client of a sheltered workshop if the
21 individual's sole other income is derived from a Social Security payment.

22 3. "Sheltered workshop" means a workshop licensed by the
23 Developmental Disabilities Administration under Title 7, Subtitle 9 of this article.

24 (ii) For the purpose of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the
25 Secretary shall:

26 1. In order to determine eligibility for the Maryland
27 Pharmacy Assistance Program, deduct any income disregards from the countable
28 gross income of a unit that contains a disabled individual;

29 2. Define excluded assets; AND

30 3. Establish a family unit structure[; and

31 4. Beginning July 1, 1985, increase annually at the time
32 Social Security benefits are increased, rounded to the next highest even \$50 level, the
33 income level within which an individual is eligible for benefits under the Maryland
34 Pharmacy Assistance Program by the larger of:

