

SENATE BILL 972

C3

71r0107

By: **Chair, Finance Committee (By Request - Departmental - Insurance Administration, Maryland)**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2007

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Insurance - Maryland Health Insurance Plan - Senior Prescription**
3 **Drug Assistance Program - Extension of Sunset**

4 FOR the purpose of extending the termination date of the Senior Prescription Drug
5 Assistance Program until a certain date; altering certain references to a certain
6 obsolete program to clarify that the program being extended under this Act and
7 that is funded by a certain carrier is the Senior Prescription Drug Assistance
8 Program; making certain conforming changes; and generally relating to the
9 Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Chapter 153 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002, as amended by
12 Chapter 282 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005 and Chapter 345
13 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2006
14 Section 13

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

17 **Chapter 153 of the Acts of 2002, as amended by Chapter 282 of the Acts of**
18 **2005 and Chapter 345 of the Acts of 2006**

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

16 (4) [Benefits] **SUBSIDIES** shall be offered to enrollees through the
17 Senior Prescription Drug **ASSISTANCE** Program established under Title 14, Subtitle
18 5, Part II of the Insurance Article beginning [July 1, 2003] **JANUARY 1, 2006**. At the
19 end of December 31, [2007] **2009**, the Senior Prescription Drug **ASSISTANCE**
20 Program established under Title 14, Subtitle 5, Part II, as amended, shall be
21 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

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

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 June 1, 2007.