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Homelessness
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 381 – MEDICARE ADVANTAGE ENROLLMENT

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DELEGATE CAROL KRIMM

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

HB 318 directs the Department of Budget and Management to adopt regulations that authorizes retirees who are enrolled in the health benefits program to use their benefits to enroll or discontinue participation in a Medicare Advantage Plan. Medicare Advantage plans have more comprehensive coverage than typical Medicare plans.

Most Medicare Advantage Plans offer coverage for areas that aren't covered by Original Medicare, including vision, hearing, dental, and wellness programs like gym memberships. Plans also cover more extra benefits than in the past, including services like transportation to doctor visits, over the counter drugs, and adult day-car services. Many plans offer prescription drug coverage.

The State of Ohio is offering a Medicare Marketplace to their retirees. Other government entities are doing the same thing. Optimizing retirees' benefits may result in savings to the retiree as well as to the State while providing better coverage.

These are options for State of Maryland retirees. The bill is written to provide for retirees to come back to the state plan in the event the retiree no longer wants to participate in a Medicare Advantage plan.