

(h) The Task Force shall conduct a minimum of four public hearings in different geographic regions of the State to receive citizen input.

(i) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on or before December 31, 2005.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) On or before September 1, 2005, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services an application for an amendment to the State's existing § 1115 demonstration waiver necessary to implement the alterations to the eligibility requirements of the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program as provided under Section 1 of this Act.

(b) The Department shall apply for federal matching funds subject to budget neutrality requirements under § 1115 of the Social Security Act and the availability of State funds.

(c) If the application for the amendment to the State's § 1115 demonstration waiver under this section is approved, all individuals enrolled in the Maryland Pharmacy Discount Program on or before the date of approval of the waiver amendment may remain enrolled in the Program through December 31, 2005; and

(d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, within 5 days after receiving notice of the approval or denial of the waiver amendment application, shall forward a copy of the notice to the Department of Legislative Services, 90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approves the primary care waiver applied for under Chapter 448 of the Acts of 2003, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall submit an amendment to the waiver to include office-based and outpatient specialty medical care and inpatient medical care for individuals with family income below 116% of the federal poverty guidelines who meet the eligibility requirements for the Maryland Primary Care Program.

SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) (1) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 14-504 of the Insurance Article, in fiscal year 2006 only, the Board of Directors of the Maryland Health Insurance Plan may authorize the transfer of not more than \$15,000,000 from the Maryland Health Insurance Plan Fund to the Major Information Technology Development Project Fund established under § 3-410.2 of the State Finance and Procurement Article to be used for the design and development of a computerized eligibility system by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

(ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of § 3-410.2 of the State Finance and Procurement Article, to the extent that the money transferred under this paragraph is not used for the purposes authorized under this subsection, the money shall be redistributed to the Maryland Health Insurance Plan Fund.