

(C) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A CARRIER MAY NOT RECEIVE THE APPROVED PURCHASER DIFFERENTIAL UNLESS THE CARRIER CONTRIBUTES, AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, TO THE SHORT-TERM PRESCRIPTION DRUG SUBSIDY PLAN CREATED UNDER TITLE 15, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE.

(2) (I) THE TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE MADE TO THE SHORT-TERM PRESCRIPTION DRUG SUBSIDY PLAN BY ALL CARRIERS PARTICIPATING IN THE SUBSTANTIAL, AFFORDABLE, AND AVAILABLE COVERAGE DIFFERENTIAL PROGRAM SHALL BE \$5.4 MILLION PER YEAR.

(II) 1. EACH CARRIER PARTICIPATING IN THE SUBSTANTIAL, AFFORDABLE, AND AVAILABLE COVERAGE DIFFERENTIAL PROGRAM SHALL CONTRIBUTE AN AMOUNT TO THE SHORT-TERM PRESCRIPTION DRUG SUBSIDY PLAN THAT IS EQUAL TO THE TOTAL DERIVED BY MULTIPLYING \$5.4 MILLION BY THE PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL BENEFIT TO ALL CARRIERS FROM THE SUBSTANTIAL, AFFORDABLE, AND AVAILABLE COVERAGE DIFFERENTIAL THAT THE CARRIER RECEIVES ON JANUARY 1, 2000.

2. ON JULY 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION SHALL CALCULATE EACH CARRIER'S CONTRIBUTION AND ASSESS THE CONTRIBUTION AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION.

(III) 1. THE CARRIER WITH THE GREATEST MARKET SHARE PARTICIPATION IN THE SUBSTANTIAL, AFFORDABLE, AND AVAILABLE COVERAGE PROGRAM LAST CARRIER TO PROVIDE MEDICARE PLUS CHOICE COVERAGE IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED COUNTIES OR PORTIONS OF COUNTIES SHALL USE AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE CONTRIBUTION DERIVED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH TO PROVIDE THE SHORT-TERM PRESCRIPTION DRUG SUBSIDY PLAN CREATED UNDER TITLE 15, SUBTITLE 6 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE.

2. THE CARRIER IS NOT REQUIRED, IN PROVIDING THE PLAN UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, TO OFFER ANY OTHER BENEFIT OTHERWISE REQUIRED UNDER TITLE 19, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE OR SUBTITLE 8 OF THIS TITLE.

(IV) THE HEALTH SERVICES COST REVIEW COMMISSION SHALL ANNUALLY ASSESS ANY CARRIER OTHER THAN THE CARRIER DESCRIBED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH FOR THE CARRIER'S CONTRIBUTION AND SHALL TRANSFER THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE TREASURER OF THE STATE, FOR PAYMENT INTO THE SHORT-TERM PRESCRIPTION DRUG SUBSIDY FUND CREATED UNDER § 15-604 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE.

(V) IF A CARRIER WITHDRAWS FROM THE SUBSTANTIAL, AFFORDABLE, AND AVAILABLE COVERAGE PROGRAM, THE COMMISSION SHALL RECALCULATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG SUBSIDY PLAN FOR THE REMAINING CARRIERS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Health Services Cost Review Commission may not take steps to eliminate or adjust the differential in hospital rates provided to carriers who provide a substantial, affordable, and