

# Retiree Prescription Drug Benefits Report

Department of Budget & Management

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October 15, 2025



WES MOORE  
Governor

MARC L. NICOLE  
Acting Secretary

ARUNA MILLER  
Lieutenant Governor

October 15, 2025

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Governor of Maryland State  
House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis MD 21401

Senator Guy Guzzone Chair  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis MD 21401

Senator Shelly Hettleman  
Chair  
Joint Committee on Pensions  
220 James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis MD 21401

Delegate Ben Barnes Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
121 Taylor House Office Building 6  
Bladen Street  
Annapolis MD 21401

Delegate Catherine Forbes Chair  
Joint Committee on Pensions  
304 Lowe House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore, Senator Guzzone, Senator Hettleman, Delegate Barnes, and Delegate Forbes:

Chapter 767 of 2019 (State Prescription Drug Benefits - Retiree Benefits - Revisions) requires the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to submit quarterly reports to the Governor, House Appropriations Committee, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and the Joint Committee on Pensions on the:

1. status of establishing the Maryland State Retiree Prescription Drug Coverage Program, Maryland State Retiree Catastrophic Prescription Drug Assistance Program, and Maryland State Retiree Life-Sustaining Prescription Drug Assistance Program (the three programs set forth in Chapter 767 relating to the State's termination of prescription drug benefits for Medicare-eligible retirees), including:
  - a. the status of procuring any contracts necessary to operate the programs, and
  - b. the prescription drugs determined to qualify for reimbursement under the Maryland State Retiree Life-Sustaining Prescription Drug Assistance Program;
2. availability of one-on-one counseling services for Medicare-eligible retirees to assist retirees in selecting a Medicare prescription drug benefit plan;

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<http://dbm.maryland.gov>

3. details of the health reimbursement accounts (HRA) or other programs to help with prescription drug costs in the three prescription drug assistance programs, including:
  - a. the specific out-of-pocket costs eligible for reimbursement,
  - b. the required process for receiving reimbursement,
  - c. the method of reimbursement,
  - d. the timing of reimbursement, and
  - e. a plan to use debit cards to process reimbursements in a convenient and efficient manner, and
  
4. in total and by category for the previous quarter, the number of issues and concerns reported to the hotline.

Please see the report attached for a substantive update and do not hesitate to reach out to me or DBM's Director of Legislative Affairs Dana Phillips (410-260-6068) with questions or any additional information that would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Marc Nicole  
Acting Secretary

cc: Victoria Gruber, Department of Legislative Services

**Quarterly Report on the Transition of Retirees to Medicare Part D  
For Prescription Drug Coverage Per Chapter 767 of 2019  
Department of Budget & Management  
October 15, 2025**

## Benefits Update

The Department's Employee Benefits Division (EBD) continues to work with Via Benefits, the State's Medicare Part D partner. EBD and Via Benefits now meet bi-weekly instead of weekly to continue to discuss operations and assistance for our Medicare-eligible retiree population and those retirees nearing eligibility for Medicare.

While we no longer have a lot of relevant information to contribute to this report, there are a few updates we would like to share as we have worked with Via Benefits for over one year, providing support to State of Maryland retirees. This month marks the first annual Medicare Open Enrollment period with eligible retirees on individual Medicare Part D plans. Please see highlights of how Via Benefits and the State prepared for this period below:

1. Medicare's Part D Open Enrollment period is from October 15, 2025 through December 7, 2025. Via Benefits will continue to be a resource for retirees during the period to assist them with enrolling in a new plan, confirming that they do not need to take any action because their plan will continue in 2026, and answering general questions about Medicare Part D, the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) and the Life-Sustaining Prescription Drug Program.
2. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released plan details for the 2026 plan year on October 1. Via Benefits conducted a review of the plans and determined how our retiree population would be impacted. While there were some changes to plans being offered in 2026, most of our retirees will be able to remain in their current plans or will be automatically mapped to a similar plan. They can choose to remain in the plan to which they were mapped or select another plan offered through Via Benefits.
3. Three new communications were created for the 2026 Open Enrollment period:
  - a. **Open Enrollment Retiree Information Sheet** – a communication that explains the steps eligible retirees and dependents must take for the new calendar year. While Medicare Part D plans do not need to be re-elected each year, retirees will be notified of any changes to their Part D plans by their carrier. This notification is called the Annual Notification of Change. Additionally, Via Benefits recommends individuals review their plans to ensure they continue to meet their needs in 2026. The Open Enrollment Retiree Information Sheet was included in the State's retiree open enrollment packet and mailed to the retiree's home address at the end of September 2025.
  - b. **"Who to Contact When a Need Arises" Supplement** – a communication that provides guidance on when to call the doctor, medical plan carrier, Part D prescription drug carrier, or Via Benefits. This will be mailed to their home address with their Benefit Confirmation Statements in January 2026.
  - c. **Annual HRA Qualification Reminder** – an email communication to remind HRA-eligible retirees of the requirement to remain enrolled in both the State's group medical plan and a Medicare Part D plan through Via Benefits. The emails were released by Via Benefits to all retirees with an email address on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
4. Via Benefits continues to engage retirees and eligible dependents before their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday by sending Age-In Mailers approximately 7 months and 3 months prior. This document introduces them to Via Benefits, including information on how to contact them and to make sure they start thinking about the actions they need to take in the coming months as they prepare for Medicare eligibility. There is no plan to discontinue this process.

### **Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) Update**

The Department continues to receive reports on the utilization of the HRA. As of October 8, 2025, there were over 231,000 claim transactions submitted for more than \$16.6 million. Most of those claims - 98.5% - were made by using the HRA debit card while 1.5% of those claims were submitted for reimbursement.

### **Life-Sustaining Prescription Drug Assistance Program Update**

As of the date of this report, there have not been any claims submitted for reimbursement under the Life-Sustaining Prescription Drug Assistance Program.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

The Department will be updating Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in late October 2025, and they will continue to be posted our Retiree website.