





WES MOORE  
*Governor*

ARUNA MILLER  
*Lieutenant Governor*

YAAKOV "JAKE" WEISSMANN  
*Acting Secretary*

MARC L. NICOLE  
*Deputy Secretary*

January 12, 2026

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,



Yaakov "Jake" Weissmann  
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  
January 9, 2026**

**Benefits Update**

The Department's Employee Benefits Division (EBD) continues to work with Via Benefits, the State's Medicare Part D partner selected to assist our Medicare-eligible retiree population and retirees nearing Medicare eligibility due to age. 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.

We completed our first transition year with Via Benefits as our Medicare Part D partner. This transition year included the first annual open enrollment where retirees could keep their same Part D Plan or change to a new Part D Plan for 2026. Please see updates below:

1. Our first full year of partnering with Via Benefits was successful. Via Benefits continued to be a resource for retirees 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 Assistance Plan.
2. Via Benefits provided all HRA participants with a new debit card effective January 1, 2026, due to a change in their banking system. Our retirees received notification about new HRA debit cards along with their State-provided 2026 Open Enrollment packet mailed in September 2025.
3. Retirees are scheduled to receive their 2026 Benefit Confirmation Statements this month, inclusive of a **"Who to Contact When a Need Arises"** supplement 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.

**Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) Update**

The Department continues to receive reports on the utilization of the HRA. As of December 31, 2025, there were over 284,000 claim transactions submitted for more than \$18.9M applied to HRA funds. 98.4% of those claims were made by using the HRA debit card and 1.6% 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.

**Retiree Website and Communications**

The Department will continue to update the State's Employee Benefits Division Retiree website as needed. Additionally, the Department will continue to work with Via Benefits to develop ad-hoc communications deemed helpful for our population.