



WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lieutenant Governor

YAAKOV "JAKE" WEISSMANN
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

April 8, 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 Karen Lewis Young
Chair
Joint Committee on Pensions
3 West Miller 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 M. Forbes
Chair
Joint Committee on Pensions
304 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore, Senator Guzzone, Senator Lewis Young, 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;

45 Calvert Street • Annapolis, MD 21401-1907

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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
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
April 8, 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. We no longer have a lot of relevant information to contribute to this report. As such, we are providing a few brief updates:

1. Retirees received new Via Benefits HRA debit cards prior to January 1, 2026.
2. 2026 Benefit Confirmation Statements were mailed to retirees the week of January 12, 2026. Included with their Statement was a **"Who to Contact When a Need Arises"** supplement. This supplement was designed to be a reference retirees can use throughout the year. The supplement provides guidance on when to call the doctor, medical plan carrier, Part D prescription drug carrier, or Via Benefits.
3. Retirees have until April 30, 2026, to submit HRA claims for reimbursement of out-of-pocket 2025 prescription drug expenses.
4. To comply with the annual notification requirement of Chapter 767 of 2019, EBD will mail a certified notice to retirees and eligible dependents who will turn 65 between July 1, 2026 and December 31, 2027.

Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) Update

The Department continues to receive reports on the utilization of the HRA, and we continue to see high utilization of the HRA debit card. As of April 1, 2026, there were over 94,000 claim transactions submitted for more than \$9.3M applied to HRA funds. 98.1% of those claims were made by using the HRA debit card and 1.9% of those claims were submitted for reimbursement.

Life-Sustaining Prescription Drug Assistance Program Update

As of the date of this report, no claims have been submitted for reimbursement under the Life-Sustaining Prescription Drug Assistance Program (LSPDP).

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. Via Benefits continues to update their dedicated website for State of Maryland retirees.