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By: **Senators Sfikas, Hollinger, and Bromwell**  
Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2001  
Assigned to: Finance and Budget and Taxation

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Health Care Foundation - Statewide Access to Free or Subsidized**  
3 **Prescription Pharmaceutical Products**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Health Care Foundation to facilitate  
5 certain access to prescription pharmaceutical products to certain persons in a  
6 certain manner; requiring the Foundation to ensure that the access provided  
7 under this Act is available in specified regions of the State; authorizing the  
8 Foundation to establish regional offices in certain locations; requiring the  
9 Foundation to use specified offices as regional offices for certain regions;  
10 authorizing the Foundation to establish a central office in a certain region;  
11 requiring the Governor to provide certain funding to the Foundation for certain  
12 purposes; requiring that the funding required under this Act be appropriated  
13 directly to the Foundation; requiring the Foundation to use the funding required  
14 under this Act for certain purposes; providing for the termination of this Act;  
15 and generally relating to the Foundation and statewide access to prescription  
16 pharmaceutical products.

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
18 MARYLAND, That:

19 (a) The Maryland Health Care Foundation shall, in a manner consistent with  
20 this section, facilitate access to free or subsidized prescription pharmaceutical  
21 products for residents of the State who are eligible for assistance in obtaining  
22 prescription pharmaceutical products;

23 (b) The Foundation shall ensure that the access provided under subsection (a)  
24 of this section is available to residents in:

- 25 (1) Western Maryland;
- 26 (2) the Eastern Shore;
- 27 (3) the Baltimore Metropolitan area;
- 28 (4) the Maryland counties in the Washington Suburban  
29 Metropolitan area; and

1 (5) Southern Maryland;

2 (c) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, the Foundation may establish a  
3 regional office in each of the regions identified in subsection (b) of this section;

4 (d) The Foundation shall use the Medbank of Maryland, Inc. and the Western  
5 Maryland Prescription Program as the regional offices for the Baltimore Metropolitan  
6 area and Western Maryland, respectively;

7 (e) The Foundation may establish a central office in any one of the regions  
8 identified in subsection (b) of this section;

9 (f) The Governor shall provide funding in the annual budget in an amount:

10 (1) sufficient to enable the Foundation to satisfy the requirements of this  
11 section; and

12 (2) not less than \$8 million annually;

13 (g) The funding provided under subsection (f) of this section shall be  
14 appropriated directly to the Foundation; and

15 (h) The Foundation shall use the funding provided under subsection (f) of this  
16 section to satisfy the requirements of this section, including the establishment and  
17 maintenance of administrative infrastructure and the provision of short-term  
18 medication while applications for assistance are pending.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Maryland Health  
20 Care Foundation shall report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government  
21 Article, to the General Assembly, and to the Governor, on or before December 1, 2001,  
22 and annually thereafter, on its progress in fulfilling the obligations imposed in  
23 Section 1 of this Act, including:

24 (a) The number and demographic characteristics of the State residents served  
25 by the Foundation under this Act;

26 (b) The types and approximate value of prescription pharmaceutical products  
27 accessed under this Act; and

28 (c) The nature and extent of outreach performed to inform State residents of  
29 the assistance available through the Foundation.

30 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 July 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of June  
32 30, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be  
33 abrogated and of no further force and effect.