
By: **Delegate Hubbard**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2002

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Asthma Control Program**

3 FOR the purpose of creating an Asthma Control Program in the Department of
4 Health and Mental Hygiene; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental
5 Hygiene to appoint a director for the Program; providing for the powers and
6 duties of the director specifically with respect to the development of a statewide
7 asthma plan; requiring the Secretary to adopt regulations to implement the
8 Program; providing for the funding of the Program; requiring the Secretary to
9 make certain reports to certain committees on or before certain dates; and
10 generally relating to the Asthma Control Program in the Department of Health
11 and Mental Hygiene.

12 BY adding to

13 Article - Health - General
14 Section 13-1601 through 13-1606, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle
15 "Subtitle 16. Asthma Control Program"
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

18 **Preamble**

19 WHEREAS, The occurrence of asthma has been increasing in the United States
20 and worldwide, and has led to the identification of asthma as a major public health
21 problem; and

22 WHEREAS, Asthma is a chronic and troubling disease that affects over 10
23 million adults and over 5 million children in the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, Over 500,000 Maryland citizens have asthma, including 95,000
25 adolescents and children; and

26 WHEREAS, Nationally, the number of deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency
27 room visits due to asthma has been increasing; and

1 WHEREAS, In order to help establish the factors underlying the development of
2 asthma, and the complications of asthma, it is important to understand its prevalence
3 and the circumstances associated with periods of increased symptoms; and

4 WHEREAS, Surveillance is a key public health tool in identifying associated or
5 causative factors; and

6 WHEREAS, A comprehensive, integrated State plan for the prevention and
7 control of asthma is central to reducing the impact of asthma on the population; now,
8 therefore,

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

11 **Article - Health - General**

12 **SUBTITLE 16. ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM.**

13 13-1601.

14 IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM.

15 13-1602.

16 THERE IS AN ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

17 13-1603.

18 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT A DIRECTOR FOR THE PROGRAM.

19 (B) THE DIRECTOR MAY ESTABLISH ADVISORY COUNCILS, TASK FORCES,
20 COMMITTEES, AND WORK GROUPS TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE
21 PROGRAM.

22 13-1604.

23 (A) THE DIRECTOR SHALL:

24 (1) ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE ASTHMA COALITION COMPOSED OF
25 INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH AN INTEREST IN ASTHMA;

26 (2) DEVELOP AND FINALIZE A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE ASTHMA
27 PLAN;

28 (3) AFTER FINALIZATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATEWIDE
29 ASTHMA PLAN, IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE ASTHMA INTERVENTION PROGRAM;

30 (4) DEVELOP AND ORGANIZE COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH
31 ASTHMA CONTROL AND STAKEHOLDERS WITHIN OTHER STATE AND LOCAL
32 AGENCIES AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR;

1 (5) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN ASTHMA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM;

2 (6) UPON COMPLETION OF THE ASTHMA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IN
3 PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IDENTIFY MECHANISMS FOR THE UTILIZATION
4 OF SURVEILLANCE DATA IN IDENTIFYING INTERVENTIONS TO CONTROL ASTHMA;

5 (7) IDENTIFY AND PROMOTE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR
6 PROVIDERS, PARENTS, GUARDIANS, CAREGIVERS, AND ASTHMA PATIENTS THAT
7 INCLUDE INFORMATION ON IDENTIFYING SYMPTOMS OF ASTHMA AND EFFECTIVE
8 TREATMENT FOR ASTHMA; AND

9 (8) IDENTIFY SOURCES OF GRANT FUNDING FOR THE ASTHMA CONTROL
10 PROGRAM.

11 (B) THE PROGRAM MAY:

12 (1) PROVIDE FUNDING FOR LOCAL ASTHMA INTERVENTION
13 INITIATIVES; AND

14 (2) PROVIDE TRAINING FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL, OR OTHER
15 APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL, ON ASTHMA EDUCATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
16 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.

17 13-1605.

18 (A) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

19 (B) THE FUNDING PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE PROGRAM IS
20 INTENDED TO COMPLEMENT FUNDING RECEIVED:

21 (1) BY THE DEPARTMENT FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
22 AND PREVENTION FOR THE PROGRAM FOR ENHANCING THE STATE'S CAPACITY TO
23 ADDRESS ASTHMA FROM A PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE; AND

24 (2) FROM ANY OTHER LAWFUL SOURCE.

25 13-1606.

26 THE SECRETARY SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DIRECTOR, ADOPT
27 RULES AND REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Secretary of Health
29 and Mental Hygiene shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of
30 the State Government Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental
31 Affairs Committee and the House Environmental Matters Committee on or before
32 December 1, 2005 and each December 1 thereafter describing the activities of the
33 Asthma Control Program created by Section 1 of this Act.

34 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
35 October 1, 2002.