
By: **Delegate Brown**
Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2002
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Health Care Foundation - Health Care Disparities**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Maryland Health Care Foundation to provide
4 financial support to programs that eliminate certain health care disparities for
5 Marylanders; requiring that the Foundation promote public awareness of the
6 need to eliminate certain health care disparities associated with poverty, gender,
7 and race; requiring the Foundation to provide grants to certain programs;
8 requiring the Foundation to develop criteria for awarding grants to certain
9 programs and to consider certain activities in developing the criteria; requiring
10 that the Foundation consider a certain geographical balance and that the
11 geographical balance consider certain factors; defining a certain term; and
12 generally relating to the Maryland Health Care Foundation.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article - Health - General
15 Section 20-501, 20-502, 20-506(a), 20-507(a), and 20-508
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

20 **Article - Health - General**

21 20-501.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (b) "Foundation" means the Maryland Health Care Foundation.

24 (c) "HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES" MEANS THE DISPROPORTIONATE RATES OF
25 CANCER, INFANT MORTALITY, CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE, HIV/AIDS, IMMUNIZATION,
26 AND DIABETES AMONG MINORITY GROUPS.

27 (D) (1) "Health care provider" means:

1 (i) A person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized
2 under the Health Occupations Article to provide health care in the ordinary course of
3 business or practice of a profession or in an approved education or training program;
4 or

5 (ii) A facility where health care is provided to patients or recipients,
6 including a facility as defined in § 10-101 of this article, a hospital as defined in §
7 19-301 of this article, a related institution as defined in § 19-301 of this article, a
8 health maintenance organization as defined in § 19-701 of this article, an outpatient
9 clinic, and a medical laboratory.

10 (2) "Health care provider" includes the agents and employees of a facility
11 who are licensed or otherwise authorized to provide health care, the officers and
12 directors of a facility, and the agents and employees of a health care provider who are
13 licensed or otherwise authorized to provide health care.

14 [(d)] (E) "Payor" means:

15 (1) A health insurer or nonprofit health service plan that holds a
16 certificate of authority and provides health insurance policies or contracts in the
17 State in accordance with this article or the Insurance Article;

18 (2) A health maintenance organization that holds a certificate of
19 authority in the State; or

20 (3) A person that is registered as an administrator under Title 8, Subtitle
21 3 of the Insurance Article.

22 20-502.

23 (A) There is a nonprofit Maryland Health Care Foundation established to
24 [promote public awareness of the need to provide more timely and cost-effective care
25 for Marylanders without health insurance and to] receive moneys that can be used to
26 provide financial support to programs that expand access to health care services for
27 uninsured AND ELIMINATE HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES FOR Marylanders.

28 (B) THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION SHALL PROMOTE PUBLIC
29 AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO:

30 (1) PROVIDE MORE TIMELY AND COST-EFFECTIVE CARE FOR
31 MARYLANDERS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE; AND

32 (2) ELIMINATE HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES ASSOCIATED WITH POVERTY,
33 GENDER, AND RACE.

34 20-506.

35 (a) The Foundation shall:

- 1 (1) Solicit and accept any gift, grant, legacy, or endowment of money,
2 including in-kind services, from the federal government, State government, local
3 government, or any private source in furtherance of the Foundation;
- 4 (2) Provide grants to programs that:
 - 5 (i) Promote public awareness of the need to provide more timely
6 and cost-effective care for uninsured Marylanders AND TO ELIMINATE HEALTH CARE
7 DISPARITIES;
 - 8 (ii) Expand access to health care services for uninsured individuals;
9 or
 - 10 (iii) Provide or subsidize health insurance coverage for uninsured
11 individuals;
- 12 (3) Study the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of providing health
13 insurance coverage through the private market to uninsured children and their
14 families as part of the program established under § 15-301 of this article;
- 15 (4) Develop programs for sponsorship by corporate and business
16 organizations or private individuals;
- 17 (5) Develop criteria for awarding grants to health care delivery
18 programs, PROGRAMS ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES, insurance coverage
19 programs, or corporate sponsorship programs;
- 20 (6) Develop criteria for prioritizing programs to be supported;
- 21 (7) Develop criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of programs
22 receiving grants;
- 23 (8) Make, execute, and enter into any contract or other legal instrument;
- 24 (9) Receive appropriations as provided in the State budget;
- 25 (10) Lease and maintain an office at a place within the State that the
26 Foundation designates;
- 27 (11) Adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its
28 business;
- 29 (12) Administer the Maryland Medbank Program in accordance with §
30 15-124.2 of this article;
- 31 (13) Take any other action necessary to carry out the purposes of the
32 Foundation; and
- 33 (14) Report annually to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State
34 Government Article, to the General Assembly, on its activities during the preceding
35 year, including an evaluation of the effectiveness of funded programs, together with

1 any recommendations or requests deemed appropriate to further the purposes of the
2 Foundation.

3 20-507.

4 (a) In developing the criteria for awarding grants to health care delivery
5 programs, PROGRAMS ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES, insurance coverage
6 programs, or corporate sponsorship programs, the Foundation may consider activities
7 that:

8 (1) Provide primary, preventive, and specialty health care services to
9 uninsured Marylanders in a more timely and cost-effective manner;

10 (2) Provide assistance to community programming for improving health
11 status by enhancing access to health care services for uninsured individuals AND FOR
12 ELIMINATING HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES;

13 (3) Publish or produce educational materials on the [problem]
14 PROBLEMS of uninsured individuals AND HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES;

15 (4) Provide educational scholarships or training; or

16 (5) Foster the creation of additional health care delivery programs to
17 meet the health care needs of uninsured individuals AND ADDRESS HEALTH CARE
18 DISPARITIES.

19 20-508.

20 (A) [To the extent feasible, the] THE Foundation shall consider geographical
21 balance BY COUNTY in providing grants and developing programs.

22 (B) THE GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE SHALL INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE
23 FOLLOWING FACTORS:

24 (1) THE PERCENTAGE OF UNINSURED INDIVIDUALS;

25 (2) THE EXTENT OF HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES; AND

26 (3) THE EXISTENCE OF COMMUNITY-BASED ASSOCIATIONS
27 ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE UNINSURED AND HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2002.