
By: **Senator Astle**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2006

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health - Maryland Medbank Program - Sunset Repeal**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing a certain termination provision relating to the
4 Maryland Medbank Program; and generally relating to the Maryland Medbank
5 Program.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article - Health - General
8 Section 15-124.2
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Chapter 236 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2003, as amended by
13 Chapter 25 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2004
14 Section 2

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

17 **Article - Health - General**

18 15-124.2.

19 (a) In this section, "Program" means the Maryland Medbank Program
20 established under this section.

21 (b) There is a Maryland Medbank Program.

22 (c) The purpose of the Program is to improve the health status of individuals
23 throughout the State who lack prescription drug coverage by providing access to
24 medically necessary prescription drugs through patient assistance programs
25 sponsored by pharmaceutical drug manufacturers.

1 (d) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Program shall be
2 administered by the Medbank of Maryland, Inc.

3 (2) The Medbank of Maryland, Inc. shall contract with one or more
4 government or nonprofit entities to operate the Program.

5 (e) (1) The Program shall be funded through a grant provided by the
6 Department.

7 (2) Program funds may be used in part to:

8 (i) Purchase interim supplies of prescription drugs for enrollees
9 who have applied to participate in a manufacturer's patient assistance program but
10 have not yet received the approved prescription drug; and

11 (ii) Distribute medication to enrollees who have been approved to
12 participate in a manufacturer's patient assistance program.

13 (f) (1) The Medbank of Maryland, Inc. shall ensure that the Program is
14 available to residents in each of the following geographic regions of the State:

15 (i) Western Maryland;

16 (ii) The Eastern Shore;

17 (iii) The Baltimore metropolitan area;

18 (iv) The Maryland counties in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan
19 area; and

20 (v) Southern Maryland, including Anne Arundel County.

21 (2) Medbank of Maryland, Inc. shall be the central coordinating office for
22 the State.

23 (g) Eligibility for the Program shall be limited only by the criteria established
24 by pharmaceutical manufacturers for their patient assistance programs.

25 (h) (1) The Department shall require detailed financial reports at least
26 quarterly from Medbank of Maryland, Inc.

27 (2) The Medbank of Maryland, Inc. shall release funds to the entities
28 that operate the Program as needed and justified by the quarterly reports filed in
29 accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection.

30 (i) On or before December 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the Department
31 and Medbank of Maryland, Inc. shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with
32 § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, on the status of
33 the Maryland Medbank Program established under this section, including:

1 (1) The number and demographic characteristics of the State residents
2 served by the Program;

3 (2) The types and retail value of prescription drugs accessed through the
4 Program;

5 (3) The nature and extent of outreach performed to inform State
6 residents of the assistance available through the Program; and

7 (4) The total volume and retail value of each brand name drug, by
8 manufacturer, accessed through the Program.

9 **Chapter 236 of the Acts of 2003, as amended by Chapter 25 of the Acts of 2004**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 June 1, 2003. [Section 15-124.2 of the Health - General Article as enacted by this Act
12 shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and 1 month and, at the end of June 30,
13 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, § 15-124.2 of the
14 Health - General Article as enacted by this Act shall be abrogated and of no further
15 force and effect.]

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 June 1, 2006.