

(3) ALLOW PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES TO COLLECT A \$1 PROCESSING FEE, IN ADDITION TO ANY AUTHORIZED DISPENSING FEE, FOR EACH PRESCRIPTION FILLED FOR AN ENROLLEE UNDER THE PROGRAM.

(G) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

15-124.2.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "FOUNDATION" MEANS THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED UNDER § 20-502 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MARYLAND MEDBANK PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(B) THERE IS A MARYLAND MEDBANK PROGRAM.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS THROUGHOUT THE STATE WHO LACK PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO MEDICALLY NECESSARY PRESCRIPTION DRUGS THROUGH PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG MANUFACTURERS.

(D) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE FOUNDATION.

(2) THE FOUNDATION SHALL CONTRACT WITH ONE OR MORE GOVERNMENT OR NONPROFIT ENTITIES TO OPERATE THE PROGRAM.

(E) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION OF THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED THROUGH A GRANT PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) PROGRAM FUNDS MAY BE USED IN PART TO PURCHASE INTERIM SUPPLIES OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR ENROLLEES WHO HAVE APPLIED TO PARTICIPATE IN A MANUFACTURER'S PATIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BUT HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED THE APPROVED PRESCRIPTION DRUG.

(F) (1) THE FOUNDATION SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF THE STATE:

(I) WESTERN MARYLAND;

(II) THE EASTERN SHORE;

(III) THE BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA;