

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

**Article - Education**

**SUBTITLE 5. HEARING AID LOAN BANK PROGRAM.**

8-501.

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

(B) "DIRECTOR" MEANS THE DIRECTOR OF THE HEARING AID LOAN BANK PROGRAM.

(C) "ELIGIBLE CHILD" MEANS A CHILD WHO:

- (1) IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;
- (2) IS IDENTIFIED BY A LICENSED AUDIOLOGIST AS HAVING A HEARING LOSS;
- (3) HAS NO IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO A HEARING AID; AND
- (4) IS UNDER THE AGE OF 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  YEARS.

(D) "LICENSED AUDIOLOGIST" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS LICENSED TO PRACTICE AUDIOLOGY UNDER TITLE 2 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

(E) "LOAN BANK" MEANS THE HEARING AID LOAN BANK.

(F) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE HEARING AID LOAN BANK PROGRAM.

8-502.

(A) THERE IS A HEARING AID LOAN BANK PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF LENDING HEARING AIDS ON A TEMPORARY BASIS TO A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF AN ELIGIBLE CHILD TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  YEARS WILL HAVE MAXIMUM AUDITORY INPUT DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF LANGUAGE LEARNING.

~~(C) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET, THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL PROVIDE BENEFITS UNDER THE PROGRAM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2002.~~

8-503.

(A) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY A DIRECTOR RECOMMENDED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT AND APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD.

(B) THE DIRECTOR SHALL: