

- (iii) The Baltimore metropolitan area;
- (iv) The Maryland counties in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area; and
- (v) Southern Maryland, including Anne Arundel County.

(2) ~~The Foundation shall use Medbank of Maryland, Inc. and the Western Maryland Prescription Program as the regional offices for the Baltimore metropolitan area and Western Maryland, respectively~~ SHALL BE THE CENTRAL COORDINATING OFFICE FOR THE STATE.

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

(h) (1) ~~The Foundation~~ DEPARTMENT shall require detailed financial reports at least quarterly from ~~the entities that operate the Program~~ MEDBANK OF MARYLAND, INC.

(2) ~~The Foundation~~ MEDBANK OF MARYLAND, INC. shall release funds to the entities that operate the Program as needed and justified by the quarterly reports filed in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(i) On or before December 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the ~~Foundation~~ DEPARTMENT AND MEDBANK OF MARYLAND, INC. shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, on the status of the Maryland Medbank Program established under this section, including:

- (1) The number and demographic characteristics of the State residents served by the Program;
- (2) The types and retail value of prescription drugs accessed through the Program;
- (3) The nature and extent of outreach performed to inform State residents of the assistance available through the Program; and
- (4) The total volume and retail value of each brand name drug, by manufacturer, accessed through the Program.

~~(J) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF AT LEAST \$3,000,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUEST FUNDING IN THE BUDGET FOR TRANSFER TO THE FOUNDATION FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF MAKING ONE OR MORE GRANTS TO ENTITIES TO OPERATE THE PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION.~~

Chapter 134 of the Acts of 2001

~~SECTION 12. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall take effect July 1, 2001. On the earlier of the end of June 30, 2003, or the availability of comparable prescription drug benefits provided by Medicare under~~