

approved. This Act, being necessary for the welfare of the inhabitants of the County, shall be liberally construed to effect its purposes. All Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed to the extent of any inconsistency.

SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2002.

Approved May 6, 2002.

CHAPTER 366

(House Bill 420)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Asthma Control Program

FOR the purpose of creating an Asthma Control Program in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to appoint a director for the Program; providing for the powers and duties of the director specifically with respect to the development of a statewide asthma plan; requiring the Secretary to adopt regulations to implement the Program; providing for the funding of the Program; requiring the Secretary to make certain reports to certain committees and a certain council on or before certain dates; and generally relating to the Asthma Control Program in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 13-1601 through 13-1606, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 16. Asthma Control Program"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The occurrence of asthma has been increasing in the United States and worldwide, and has led to the identification of asthma as a major public health problem; and

WHEREAS, Asthma is a chronic and troubling disease that affects over 10 million adults and over 5 million children in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Over 500,000 Maryland citizens have asthma, including 95,000 adolescents and children; and

WHEREAS, Nationally, the number of deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits due to asthma has been increasing; and