

WHEREAS, In order to help establish the factors underlying the development of asthma, and the complications of asthma, it is important to understand its prevalence and the circumstances associated with periods of increased symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Surveillance is a key public health tool in identifying associated or causative factors; and

WHEREAS, A comprehensive, integrated State plan for the prevention and control of asthma is central to reducing the impact of asthma on the population; now, therefore,

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

**Article - Health - General**

**SUBTITLE 16. ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM.**

13-1601.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, "PROGRAM" MEANS THE ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM.

13-1602.

THERE IS AN ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT.

13-1603.

(A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT A DIRECTOR FOR THE PROGRAM.

(B) THE DIRECTOR MAY ESTABLISH ADVISORY COUNCILS, TASK FORCES, COMMITTEES, AND WORK GROUPS TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

13-1604.

(A) THE DIRECTOR SHALL:

(1) ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE ASTHMA COALITION COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH AN INTEREST IN ASTHMA;

(2) DEVELOP AND FINALIZE A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE ASTHMA PLAN;

(3) AFTER FINALIZATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATEWIDE ASTHMA PLAN, IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE ASTHMA INTERVENTION PROGRAM;

(4) DEVELOP AND ORGANIZE COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ASTHMA CONTROL AND STAKEHOLDERS WITHIN OTHER STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR;

(5) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN ASTHMA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM;