

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 13-2501 of Article Health - General of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 13-2501.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,~~ That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

~~SUBTITLE 25. MARYLAND MEDBANK PROGRAM~~

~~13-2501, 15-124.2.~~

(a) In this section, "Program" means the Maryland Medbank Program established under this section.

(b) There is a Maryland Medbank Program ~~IN THE FAMILY HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.~~

(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 Medbank of Maryland, Inc.

(2) The Medbank of Maryland, Inc. shall contract with one or more government or nonprofit entities to operate the Program.

(e) (1) The Program shall be funded through a grant provided by the Department.

(2) Program funds may be used in part to:

(i) 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; and

(ii) Distribute medication to enrollees who have been approved to participate in a manufacturer's patient assistance program.

(f) (1) The Medbank of Maryland, Inc. shall ensure that the Program is available to residents in each of the following geographic regions of the State: