

SENATE BILL 281

J1

71r2270

By: **Senators Middleton, Dyson, and Pugh**
Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2007
Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Family Health Administration –**
3 **Maryland Medbank Program**

4 FOR the purpose of transferring the Maryland Medbank Program to the Family
5 Health Administration within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;
6 and generally relating to the Maryland Medbank Program.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article – Health – General

9 Section 15–124.2

10 to be Section 13–2501

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Health – General

15 Section 13–2501 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 25. Maryland Medbank
16 Program”

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

19 (As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 15–124.2 of Article – Health – General of the Annotated
22 Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 13–2501.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article - Health - General**

4 **SUBTITLE 25. MARYLAND MEDBANK PROGRAM.**

5 13-2501.

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

8 (b) There is a Maryland Medbank Program **IN THE FAMILY HEALTH**
9 **ADMINISTRATION.**

10 (c) The purpose of the Program is to improve the health status of individuals
11 throughout the State who lack prescription drug coverage by providing access to
12 medically necessary prescription drugs through patient assistance programs
13 sponsored by pharmaceutical drug manufacturers.

14 (d) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Program shall be
15 administered by the Medbank of Maryland, Inc.

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

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

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

21 (i) Purchase interim supplies of prescription drugs for enrollees
22 who have applied to participate in a manufacturer's patient assistance program but
23 have not yet received the approved prescription drug; and

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

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

28 (i) Western Maryland;

- 1 (ii) The Eastern Shore;
- 2 (iii) The Baltimore metropolitan area;
- 3 (iv) The Maryland counties in the Washington, D.C.
4 metropolitan area; and
- 5 (v) Southern Maryland, including Anne Arundel County.

6 (2) Medbank of Maryland, Inc. shall be the central coordinating office
7 for the State.

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

10 (h) (1) The Department shall require detailed financial reports at least
11 quarterly from Medbank of Maryland, Inc.

12 (2) The Medbank of Maryland, Inc. shall release funds to the entities
13 that operate the Program as needed and justified by the quarterly reports filed in
14 accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection.

15 (i) On or before December 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the Department
16 and Medbank of Maryland, Inc. shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with §
17 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, on the status of the
18 Maryland Medbank Program established under this section, including:

19 (1) The number and demographic characteristics of the State residents
20 served by the Program;

21 (2) The types and retail value of prescription drugs accessed through
22 the Program;

23 (3) The nature and extent of outreach performed to inform State
24 residents of the assistance available through the Program; and

25 (4) The total volume and retail value of each brand name drug, by
26 manufacturer, accessed through the Program.

27 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 July 1, 2007.