

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,Article - Health - GeneralSection 15-103(b)(1)Annotated Code of Maryland(1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,Article - Health - GeneralSection 15-103(b)(12)Annotated Code of Maryland(1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)**Preamble**

~~WHEREAS, A significant portion of the citizens of this State who are eligible for Medicaid and other State administered health assistance programs face barriers to accessing health care services; and~~

~~WHEREAS, These barriers consist of cultural and language differences between health care providers and their patients, limited accessibility of many health care facilities which are open during weekday business hours only, lack of transportation to facilities, inconvenient location of facilities, inadequate understanding by program enrollees of enrollment processes and benefits, and providers who are unfamiliar with community needs or cultural and health benefits; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The enrollment rate of eligible children in Maryland's "Kids Count" Program is less than 25 percent; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Because media outreach to certain populations has not been as successful as anticipated, efforts must be made to include community based outreach to affected populations; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The existing barriers to access to health care services are not necessarily overcome by enrollment in insurance programs, but may continue as impediments to meaningful participation in health plans; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Comprehensive outreach services to affected populations must be an ongoing effort; now, therefore,~~

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

Article - Health - General**1-101.**

~~(a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(c) "Department" means the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.~~