

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments
 Section ~~287(e), 298, and~~ 641(a)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1987 Replacement Volume and 1989 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Transportation
Section 16-812(h)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1987 Replacement Volume and 1989 Supplement)

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~
~~Section 3-820.1~~
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(1989 Replacement Volume)~~

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, Drug and alcohol abuse contributes to the occurrence of numerous tragedies of contemporary society, including street crimes, organized crime, school dropouts, suicide, physical illness, unemployment, family dysfunction, and highway injuries and fatalities; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Alcohol related fatalities are the number one cause of death among teenagers, and at least 38 percent of all suicides and 50 percent of all child and spouse abuse cases are related to substance abuse; and~~

~~WHEREAS, National and State studies have identified a strong link between drug and alcohol abuse and criminal behavior, evidenced by the fact that more than 70 percent of the inmates in the State's prison system have a history of drug and alcohol abuse; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Drug and alcohol abuse costs Maryland an estimated \$4 billion annually in lost productivity and absenteeism; and~~

~~WHEREAS, At least 21 percent of all AIDS cases in Maryland are associated with intravenous drug use, which percentage is expected to increase significantly in the next five years; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Every person in Maryland is affected directly or indirectly by the growing crisis of drug abuse; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The Governor, in response to this extraordinary crisis, established a Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission and mandated the Commission to prepare and submit a comprehensive and integrated plan for reducing illegal drug related activities and drug and alcohol abuse in Maryland; and~~