

~~WHEREAS, The Commission, after an intensive six month focus which involved numerous local, regional, and statewide meetings and public hearings and the input of a broad cross section of concerned citizens, State, local, and national officials, and health, corrections, and law enforcement experts, has submitted a comprehensive Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Plan; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The Comprehensive Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Plan examines the nature and extent of the problem, summarizes current efforts, promotes coordination of drug control efforts, and identifies goals and recommendations designed to meet the challenge of controlling substance abuse; and~~

~~WHEREAS, That Plan calls for changing our society's behavior and attitude about drug and alcohol abuse by, among other things,~~

- ~~1. requiring drug free accountability for individuals who seek or hold State licenses to engage in professions, occupations, trades, or businesses;~~
- ~~2. requiring businesses licensed, permitted, or chartered by the State to maintain a drug free workplace;~~
- ~~3. requiring the suspension of the drivers' licenses of persons convicted of controlled dangerous substance offenses;~~
- ~~4. establishing minimum fines for persons convicted of controlled dangerous substance offenses;~~
- ~~5. restricting the use of probation before judgment in controlled dangerous substance offense cases; and~~
- ~~6. establishing an asset forfeiture fund; now, therefore,~~

Preamble

WHEREAS, Drug 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, National and State studies have identified a strong link between drug abuse and criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, Drug abuse costs Maryland in lost productivity and absenteeism; 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 abuse in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The Commission, after an intensive six-month focus which involved numerous local, regional, and statewide meetings and public hearings and the input of a