

and implemented through the combined and correlated efforts of federal, state, local communities and private individuals and organizations.

(b) A comprehensive program of compulsory treatment of drug addicts is essential to the protection and promotion of the health and welfare of the inhabitants of the State as well as to discourage the violation of laws relating to the sale, possession and use of narcotics and other dangerous drugs. Drug addicts are estimated to be responsible for one-half the crimes committed in the City of Baltimore alone and the problem of drug addiction is rapidly spreading into the suburbs and other parts of the State. This threat to the peace and safety of the inhabitants of the State must be met. Not only crime, but unemployment, poverty, loss of human dignity and of the ability to fill a meaningful and productive role in the community, as well as damage to the physical and mental health of the addict himself are all by-products of this spreading disease. The drug addict needs help before he is compelled to resort to crime to support his habit. The drug addict who commits a crime needs help to break his addiction. A comprehensive program of treatment, rehabilitation and after-care for drug addicts can fill these needs.

(c) Experience has demonstrated that drug addicts can be rehabilitated and returned to useful lives only through extended periods of treatment in a controlled environment followed by supervision in an after-care program. The purpose of this Article is to provide a comprehensive program of human renewal of drug addicts in rehabilitation centers and after-care programs. The comprehensive program provided by this Article is designed to assist the rehabilitation of drug addicts. It applies to addicts who are not accused of crimes, as well as addicts convicted of crimes. The program is further designed to protect society against the social contagion of drug addiction and to meet the need of drug addicts for medical, psychological and vocational rehabilitation, while safeguarding the liberty of individuals against undue interference.

## 2. Definitions.

As used in this Article—

(a) "the Authority" means the Drug Abuse Authority.

(b) "the Center" means the Drug Addiction Rehabilitation Center.

(c) "the Council" means the Advisory Council on Drug Abuse.

(d) "drug abuse" means any misuse by any person of or dependence by any person on any drug whose use is either prohibited or regulated by Section 276, Section 313A, and Section 313B of Article 27 including, but not limited to, narcotic and non-narcotic drug addiction and narcotic and non-narcotic drug habituation.

(e) "drug addiction" means a physical and psychological dependence on any drug enumerated in Section 276, Section 313A, and Section 313B of Article 27.

(f) "drug addict" means a person exhibiting the symptoms of drug addiction or who by reason of the repeated use of any drug enumerated above is in imminent danger of becoming addicted to