

extension of comprehensive health planning programs provided for in the Federal Public Health Service Act and in particular the Comprehensive Health Planning and Public Health Services Amendment of 1966 (Public Law 89-749); and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly, by the enactment of and amendments to Article 41, Section 59C of the Annotated Code of Maryland, has given official statutory recognition to the national health planning programs provided for in Public Laws 89-749 and 93-641, and has authorized the Governor to implement those federal laws; and

WHEREAS, In particular, the General Assembly, in Section 59C of Article 41, has directed the Governor (1) to designate a single State agency as the sole agency for administering or supervising the administration of the State's health planning functions, (2) to appoint a State Health Planning Council to advise the comprehensive health planning agency, and (3) to implement Public Law 93-641 in accordance with its provisions; and

WHEREAS, The functions and responsibilities of the State Health Planning and Development Agency provided for in Public Law 93-641 are, by Article 41, Section 59C, committed to the State Comprehensive Health Planning Agency, which is required by Article 41, Section 59C and 206(e) to be part of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly has declined to otherwise provide for the implementation of Public Law 93-641 by further legislation; and

WHEREAS, In order to implement Public Law 93-641 in accordance with its provisions, it is necessary for me to do so by Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Article II, Section 24, of the Constitution of Maryland, the implementation of Public Law 93-641 by Executive Order may not be inconsistent with existing law; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with applicable provisions of federal law, public hearings have been held throughout the State with respect to the State's proposed method of complying with Public Law 93-641, and the comments received from those hearings have been duly considered; and

WHEREAS, Discussions have been held with representatives of the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the State Law Department, and opinions have been received from them that the