

and yet be immune from the provisions of the State Substance Abuse Policy. The very nature of these employees' responsibilities necessitates a strict alcohol and drug policy. An intolerable situation would occur if the State could not hold these individuals accountable for admitted illegal substance abuse. The public deserves and demands such accountability.

This Administration has taken great strides to eliminate substance abuse in Maryland. For instance, the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission has initiated numerous programs ranging from the collection and analysis of empirical data on drug abuse in order to educate policymakers, legislators, and the general public to drug resistance education programs for inner-city youths at Maryland parks. Furthermore, the State counsels substance-addicted pregnant women to ensure a better life for Maryland's children; the Schaefer House provides counseling for drug-addicted juveniles; and the State runs jail-based substance abuse programs. And, educational programs, intensified law enforcement efforts, and stiffer criminal penalties have played a key role in preventing and controlling the substance abuse epidemic. House Bill 345, by weakening the State's authority to sanction State employees involved with illegal substances, would only serve to diminish the efforts I have taken to reduce substance abuse in the State.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 345.

Sincerely,

William Donald Schaefer

Governor

#### House Bill No. 345

AN ACT concerning

#### State Substance Abuse Policy - Probation Before Judgment = Offenses Outside the Course and Scope of Employment

FOR the purpose of providing that a probation before judgment for State employees and that ~~offenses convictions~~ for certain State employees not in a sensitive class or position occurring outside the course and scope of employment may not be considered violations of the State Substance Abuse Policy under certain circumstances; prohibiting the State or an appointing authority from imposing a suspension or other sanctions, or undertaking any other disciplinary actions under the State Substance Abuse Policy against a State employee who receives a probation before judgment or against certain State employees not in a sensitive class or position for ~~offenses convictions~~ not occurring during the course and scope of employment under certain circumstances; providing certain exceptions for offenses occurring during the course and scope of employment; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the consideration of probation before judgment and offenses occurring outside the course and scope of employment under the State Substance Abuse Policy.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments