

WHEREAS, A study by the pretrial release program in Baltimore City estimated that 70% of those arrested tested positive for drug use; and

WHEREAS, There is a 6-month waiting period in the State to receive drug treatment; and

WHEREAS, Alcohol *abuse* and drug abuse treatment programs constitute a good investment of public funds yielding a significant return; and

WHEREAS, The benefits of alcohol *abuse* and drug abuse treatment programs justify the use of scarce public funds to pay for these programs; and

WHEREAS, The results of a landmark 1992 study in California of the effectiveness and benefits of alcohol *abuse* and drug abuse treatment programs in California indicated three major findings: (1) there is a \$7 return for every dollar invested in these programs; (2) criminal activities of individuals who have an alcohol or drug abuse dependence significantly declined after the completion of treatment; and (3) significant improvements in health and corresponding reductions in hospitalizations of individuals were found during and after treatment; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article — Courts and Judicial Proceedings

~~3-820.~~

~~(e) (1) In making a disposition on a petition, the court may:~~

~~(i) Place the child on probation or under supervision in his own home or in the custody or under the guardianship of a relative or other fit person, upon terms the court deems appropriate;~~

~~(ii) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection, commit the child to the custody or under the guardianship of the Department of Juvenile Justice, a local department of social services, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, or a public or licensed private agency on terms that the court considers appropriate to meet the priorities set forth in subsection (b) of this section, including designation of the type of facility where the child is to be accommodated, until custody or guardianship is terminated with approval of the court or as required under § 3-825 of this subtitle; or~~

~~(iii) Order the child, parents, guardian, or custodian of the child to participate in rehabilitative services that are in the best interest of the child and the family;~~

~~(2) A child committed under paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection may not be accommodated in a facility that has reached budgeted capacity if a bed is available in another comparable facility in the State, unless the placement to the facility that has reached budgeted capacity has been recommended by the Department of Juvenile Justice.~~