

~~recommendations, if any, had been implemented, and that planning, coordination, and clear lines of responsibility were lacking on the part of the BCPS; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In June, 1994, the BCPS and MSDE mutually agreed to retain MGT of America, Inc., a Florida consulting firm with experience in education issues, to evaluate the BCPS' progress in implementing the Cresap recommendations; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In January, 1995, at a public hearing, MGT presented its report on BCPS' progress revealing that 39 of the 53 major Cresap recommendations had not been implemented and cited the major barriers to implementation as: no master plan for implementation; confusion among school and central office administrators about the Cresap report; inadequate, fragmented, poorly coordinated training efforts; sweeping changes in senior level staff within the BCPS; and the disbanding of the BCPS groups responsible for implementation oversight; and~~

~~WHEREAS, At the same public hearing, the superintendent of the BCPS responded to the MGT report by implying that the Cresap recommendations were for the purpose of providing guidance only and there was no intention of implementing all of the recommendations to which the BCPS and MSDE earlier agreed; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The BCPS' poor management practices likely contribute to the unacceptable level of student performance and efforts by private sector volunteers, independent consultants, the MSDE, and the Maryland General Assembly have failed to motivate action by the BCPS; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In April, 1995, the Maryland General Assembly included a provision in the State budget bill withholding \$5,873,943 from the Fiscal Year 1996 appropriation for the State share of basic current expenses for the City of Baltimore pending receipt of a report from the Maryland State Department of Education evaluating whether the BCPS has made substantial progress in implementing the Cresap recommendations, including a systemwide personnel evaluation system; and~~

WHEREAS, In January 1996, the State Superintendent, on behalf of the members of the State Board of Education, reported that the Baltimore City Public Schools had not made substantial progress in implementing the Towers Perrin/Cresap management reform recommendations, including a merit-based, systemwide personnel evaluation system for teachers, principals, and administrators; and

WHEREAS, The Fiscal Year 1996 State appropriation for education aid for Baltimore City is \$423.6 million, or 20 percent of the appropriation statewide; and

WHEREAS, \$5,873,943 is the amount estimated to be 25 percent of Baltimore City's expenditures for salaries, wages, and benefits for administration for the BCPS Baltimore City Public Schools for Fiscal Year 1996; and

WHEREAS, The action of withholding \$5,873,943 from the City of Baltimore is consistent with provisions included in State budget bills to withhold up to 25 percent of the salary of State administrators deemed to be responsible for poor compliance with State laws, rules, and regulations governing fiscal administration practices; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF