~~WHEREAS, The Department's report indicated the costs associated with the first year of closure of Rosewood Center would be $7,464,000, with long term net savings ultimately realized; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The Department of Legislative Services in 2004 projected general fund savings of approximately $11,800,000 over 5 years by moving residents from the Rosewood Center to the community; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Closure of a State residential center generates long term savings that benefit individuals with developmental disabilities living in the community who are waiting for needed services through the Waiting List Equity Fund and the Community Services Trust Fund; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The closure of the Great Oaks Center in 1996 demonstrated that individuals with profound and multiple disabilities, including medical and behavioral needs, can live successfully in the community with the proper supports; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The closure of the Great Oaks Center was accomplished without a significant loss of jobs to employees who sought to remain in State employment; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Generally for State employees who are displaced, there are more job opportunities in the Central Maryland region than in other regions of the State; and~~

~~WHEREAS, After its closure, an effective use was found for the Great Oaks Center that resulted in positive economic gains for the surrounding community through increased tax revenues for the local jurisdiction and an increased workforce; now, therefore,~~

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

~~**Article – Health – General**~~

~~**7–518.**~~ ~~**RESERVED.**~~

~~**7–519.**~~ ~~**RESERVED.**~~

~~**PART IV. ROSEWOOD TRANSITION PLAN.**~~

~~**7–520.**~~

~~**(A) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2007, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A ROSEWOOD TRANSITION PLAN WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF CLOSING THE ROSEWOOD CENTER BY FISCAL YEAR 2010.**~~