residential centers about certain opportunities to participate in a certain waiver; requiring the Department to submit a certain annual report; defining a certain term; and generally relating to individuals living in State residential centers and access to home and community based waivers requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to make a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Money Follows the Person grant.

## BY adding to

Article – Health – General Section <del>15-135.1</del> <u>15-144</u> Annotated Code of Maryland (2005 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

## Preamble

WHEREAS, The Written-Plan of Habilitation (§ 7-904 of the Health — General Article) requires that the individual written plan for each individual residing at a State-residential center include a recommendation regarding the most integrated setting to meet the individual's needs and barriers to providing services in the most integrated setting; and

WHEREAS, Ninety-percent-of the individuals reviewed to date have a finding from the independent-resource coordinator that community residential services are the most integrated setting; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Health-and Mental Hygiene's report on the Written-Plan-of Habilitation for Individuals in State-Residential Centers to the General-Assembly states that "capacity is not a significant barrier for most individuals if funding is available"; and

WHEREAS, No-funding has been provided in the Department's budget to transition individuals from State residential centers to appropriate community services; new, therefore,

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

## Article - Health - General

15-135.1