

~~WHEREAS, These factors include medical, legal, employment, and family and social relationship considerations; and~~

~~WHEREAS, One of the factors that needs to be addressed and on which more attention must be focused is employment; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Adequate employment will support recovery from alcohol and drug addiction by increasing self-esteem, providing for sufficient legal income, providing new associations with people, places, and habits, and providing a constructive daily schedule and routine; and~~

~~WHEREAS, A successful link between employment and alcohol and drug abuse treatment promises an economic benefit to local communities and the State; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA) has documented that 20% of clients in drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs, who were unemployed and seeking employment at the time of admission into treatment, were employed at discharge and that an additional 8% of those clients, who were unemployed and not seeking employment at admission, were employed at discharge; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Although these numbers represent an improvement and indicate some successes, it is essential that employment is obtained by more clients who complete alcohol and drug abuse treatment; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The cooperation of the private business sector in any strategy that would link employment and alcohol and drug abuse treatment would facilitate the effective training and placement of individuals undergoing treatment in meaningful positions; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In the absence of adequate funding and direction, substance abuse treatment providers have not addressed client employment needs in a consistent fashion to ensure successful outcomes; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In recognition of this gap between current treatment programs and the needs of the private job market and the lack of a focused strategy on this problem, the ADAA shall design and administer an Employment in Recovery initiative that will provide demonstration grants to local health departments and county governments to operate, in cooperation with local businesses, innovative ADAA funded treatment programs that will, in a comprehensive and consistent manner, address client employment needs both during treatment and after treatment; now, therefore,~~

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