

BY adding to

Article - Health - General

Section 8-901

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, A correlation exists between substance abuse and the commission of crime in the State; and

WHEREAS, In Baltimore City, for example, 50,000 drug addicts are responsible for committing 80% of the crime; and

WHEREAS, Substance abuse programs are effective in treating persons who are addicted to drugs and in reducing crime rates; and

WHEREAS, A drug addict in the State currently must endure a long wait to get into a substance abuse program; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that each \$1 invested in a substance abuse program saves the taxpayer \$7; and

WHEREAS, A need exists to increase funding for existing substance abuse programs, the availability of the programs for those who need treatment, and the evaluation of existing programs; now, therefore,

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

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments

18-316.

(A) **THERE IS A TASK FORCE TO STUDY INCREASING THE AVAILABILITY OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS.**

(B) **THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

(1) **TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE OR ANOTHER MEMBER OF THAT COMMITTEE DESIGNATED BY THE CHAIRMAN;**

(2) **TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

(3) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE;**

(4) **ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES;**