

By: **Delegates Morhaim and Nathan-Pulliam**  
Introduced and read first time: January 19, 1998  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Task Force to Study Increasing the Availability of Substance Abuse**  
3                                   **Programs**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Increasing the Availability of  
5 Substance Abuse Programs; providing for the membership, duties, and staffing  
6 of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to report to certain persons by a  
7 certain date; providing for the effective date and the termination of this Act; and  
8 generally relating to the Task Force to Study Increasing the Availability of  
9 Substance Abuse Programs.

10 BY adding to  
11 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
12 Section 18-316  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

15                                   Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

4 18-316.

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

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

8 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTED BY THE  
9 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

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

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

14 (4) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR A DESIGNEE OF THE ATTORNEY  
15 GENERAL;

16 (5) ONE LICENSED PHYSICIAN WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING IN A  
17 SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM;

18 (6) ONE REGISTERED NURSE WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING IN A  
19 SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM;

20 (7) ONE LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING IN A  
21 SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM;

22 (8) ONE LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING IN A  
23 SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM;

24 (9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
25 PROGRAM;

26 (10) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A CITY SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM;

27 (11) ONE FORMER ADDICT;

28 (12) ONE POLICE OFFICER;

29 (13) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS;

30 (14) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE;

31 (15) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND  
32 FAMILIES;

1 (16) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF HOSPITALS IN THE STATE;

2 (17) ONE OPERATOR FROM A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM; AND

3 (18) ONE EXPERIENCED ADDICTIONS COUNSELOR.

4 (C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE TASK FORCE.

5 (D) THE TASK FORCE SHALL DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR  
6 INCREASING THE FUNDING AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
7 PROGRAMS IN THE STATE BY:

8 (1) EXAMINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN  
9 THE STATE, AND THE NUMBER OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS THAT EXIST TO  
10 ADDRESS THE PROBLEM;

11 (2) COLLECTING DATA TO DETERMINE THE CORRELATION BETWEEN  
12 SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND THE COMMISSION OF CRIMES;

13 (3) DETERMINING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
14 PROGRAMS ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THOSE ADDICTED TO DRUGS WHO SEEK  
15 TREATMENT;

16 (4) DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING CURRENTLY AVAILABLE  
17 FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS;

18 (5) TAKING ANY OTHER ACTION NECESSARY AND PROPER TO CARRY  
19 OUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION; AND

20 (6) MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF  
21 SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS.

22 (E) MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION  
23 EXCEPT THAT THE MEMBERS MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE  
24 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

25 (F) THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, IN COOPERATION  
26 WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE STATE AND LOCAL UNITS, SHALL PROVIDE STAFF  
27 SUPPORT FOR THE TASK FORCE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WITHIN EXISTING  
28 BUDGETED RESOURCES.

29 (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS,  
30 RECOMMENDATIONS, AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO THE GOVERNOR AND,  
31 SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL  
32 ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2000.

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
34 June 1, 1998. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the  
35 end of January 1, 2000, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this  
36 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

