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

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 10, 1998

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CHAPTER\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 18-316.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 ~~(4)~~ (5) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR A DESIGNEE OF THE ATTORNEY  
26 GENERAL;

27 ~~(5)~~ (6) ONE LICENSED PHYSICIAN WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING IN A  
28 SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM;

29 ~~(6)~~ (7) ONE REGISTERED NURSE WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING IN A  
30 SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM;

31 ~~(7)~~ (8) ONE LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING  
32 IN A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM;

33 ~~(8)~~ (9) ONE LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST WITH EXPERIENCE WORKING  
34 IN A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM;

1           ~~(9)~~     (10)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
2 PROGRAM;

3           ~~(10)~~    (11)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A CITY SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
4 PROGRAM;

5           (12)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF  
6 SOCIAL SERVICE DIRECTORS;

7           ~~(11)~~    (13)    ONE FORMER ADDICT;

8           ~~(12)~~    (14)    ONE POLICE OFFICER;

9           ~~(13)~~    (15)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
10 CORRECTIONS;

11          ~~(14)~~    (16)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE  
12 JUSTICE;

13          ~~(15)~~    (17)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH,  
14 AND FAMILIES;

15          ~~(16)~~    (18)    ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF HOSPITALS IN THE STATE;

16          ~~(17)~~    (19)    ONE OPERATOR FROM A SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM; AND

17          ~~(18)~~    (20)    ONE EXPERIENCED ADDICTIONS COUNSELOR.

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

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

22           (1)     EXAMINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN  
23 THE STATE, AND THE NUMBER OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS THAT EXIST TO  
24 ADDRESS THE PROBLEM;

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

27           (3)     DETERMINING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
28 PROGRAMS ARE ACCESSIBLE TO THOSE ADDICTED TO DRUGS WHO SEEK  
29 TREATMENT;

30           (4)     DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING CURRENTLY AVAILABLE  
31 FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS;

32           (5)     TAKING ANY OTHER ACTION NECESSARY AND PROPER TO CARRY  
33 OUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION; ~~AND~~

1           (6)     MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF  
2 SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS, BOTH SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM;

3           (7)     EXAMINING THE REASONS FOR PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO SUBSTANCE  
4 ABUSE PROGRAMS; AND

5           (8)     MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO DECREASE PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO  
6 SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS TO ENSURE THAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS  
7 ARE ACCESSIBLE THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO THOSE ADDICTED TO DRUGS WHO  
8 SEEK TREATMENT.

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

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

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

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