

SENATE BILL 206

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1999 Regular Session  
9r1542  
CF HB 62

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By: **Senators Conway and Mitchell**  
Introduced and read first time: February 1, 1999  
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 2, 1999

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Task Force to Study Increasing the Availability of Substance Abuse**  
3                                   **Programs - Extension of Sunset and Time to Issue Final Report**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the termination date of the Task Force to Study  
5 Increasing the Availability of Substance Abuse Programs; extending the date  
6 requiring by which the Task Force to Study Increasing the Availability of  
7 Substance Abuse Programs is required to issue a final report; making technical  
8 changes; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study Increasing the  
9 Availability of Substance Abuse Programs.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Chapter 778 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1998  
12 Section 3

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments  
15 Section 18-316  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

20                                   **Chapter 778 of the Acts of 1998**

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act  
22 shall take effect June 1, 1998. It shall remain effective for a period of [1 year] 2

1 YEARS and [6] 7 months and, at the end of [January 1] DECEMBER 31, 2000, with no  
2 further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no  
3 further force and effect.

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

5 18-316.

6 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Increasing the Availability of Substance  
7 Abuse Programs.

8 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

9 (1) Two members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of  
10 the House, one of whom shall be the Chairman of the House Special Committee on  
11 Drug and Alcohol Abuse or another member of that committee designated by the  
12 Chairman;

13 (2) Two members of the Senate of Maryland appointed by the President  
14 of the Senate;

15 (3) One representative of the Department of Health and Mental  
16 Hygiene;

17 (4) One representative from the Department of Human Resources;

18 (5) The Attorney General or a designee of the Attorney General;

19 (6) One licensed physician with experience working in a substance abuse  
20 program;

21 (7) One registered nurse with experience working in a substance abuse  
22 program;

23 (8) One licensed social worker with experience working in a substance  
24 abuse program;

25 (9) One licensed psychologist with experience working in a substance  
26 abuse program;

27 (10) One representative from a county substance abuse program;

28 (11) One representative from a city substance abuse program;

29 (12) One representative from the Maryland Association of Social Service  
30 Directors;

31 (13) One former addict;

32 (14) One police officer;

- 1 (15) One representative of the Department of Corrections;
- 2 (16) One representative of the Department of Juvenile Justice;
- 3 (17) One representative of the Office for Children, Youth, and Families;
- 4 (18) One representative of hospitals in the State;
- 5 (19) One operator from a substance abuse program; and
- 6 (20) One experienced addictions counselor.
- 7 (c) The Governor shall appoint the Chairperson of the Task Force.
- 8 (d) The Task Force shall develop a comprehensive strategy for increasing the  
9 funding and the availability of substance abuse programs in the State by:
- 10 (1) Examining the scope of the problem of substance abuse in the State,  
11 and the number of substance abuse programs that exist to address the problem;
- 12 (2) Collecting data to determine the correlation between substance abuse  
13 and the commission of crimes;
- 14 (3) Determining the extent to which the substance abuse programs are  
15 accessible to those addicted to drugs and alcohol who seek treatment;
- 16 (4) Determining the amount of funding currently available for substance  
17 abuse programs;
- 18 (5) Taking any other action necessary and proper to carry out the  
19 purpose of this section;
- 20 (6) Examining the availability of substance abuse programs designed for  
21 women, pregnant women, and women with children, as well as the outcomes of these  
22 programs in relation to the length of stay;
- 23 (7) Examining the health insurance coverage available in the State for  
24 substance abuse treatment;
- 25 (8) Making recommendations to increase the availability of substance  
26 abuse programs, both short-term and long-term;
- 27 (9) Examining the reasons for public opposition to substance abuse  
28 programs; and
- 29 (10) Making recommendations to decrease public opposition to substance  
30 abuse programs to ensure that substance abuse programs are accessible throughout  
31 the State to those addicted to drugs who seek treatment.

1 (e) Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation except that  
2 the members may be reimbursed for expenses under the Standard State Travel  
3 Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

4 (f) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in cooperation with other  
5 appropriate State and local units, shall provide staff support for the Task Force to the  
6 extent possible within existing budgeted resources.

7 (g) The Task Force shall issue a final report of its findings, recommendations,  
8 and comprehensive strategy to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State  
9 Government Article, to the General Assembly ~~on or~~ before January 1, [2000] 2001.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 1999.