

# MODEL ACT ELEVATING THE SINGLE STATE AUTHORITY ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL TO A CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 19, 2011

## *Section 1. Short Title.*

The provisions of this [Act] shall be known and may be cited as the “Model Act Elevating the Single State Authority on Drugs and Alcohol to a Cabinet Level Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.”

## *Section 2. Legislative Findings.*

- (a) [Insert number of residents of the state][e.g. “788,202 Pennsylvanians] have a drug and alcohol problem and are unable to obtain treatment.
- (b) One in four families in [state] is struggling to help a loved one with a drug and alcohol problem.
- (c) Untreated alcohol and drug problems drive up the finances of state government and force certain spending priorities on [the state of \_\_\_\_\_].
- (d) Untreated alcohol and other drug problems are involved in over 70% of crimes perpetrated against the residents of our state. Moreover, 70% of the prison population has an alcohol and drug problem.
- (e) Untreated alcohol and other drug problems are involved in 70 to 80 percent of cases being handled by children and youth agencies.
- (f) In addition to the terrible human suffering caused, the costs of untreated drug and alcohol addiction and abuse on the state budget are staggering. For example:
  - (i) The impact on the [state name for Corrections Department] alone is \$\_\_\_\_\_ million [e.g. impact on PA DOC budget is \$980 million];
  - (ii) One of every dollars spent by Medicaid on hospital care is expended for drug and alcohol related health care problems with an impact on the state Medicaid budget of \$\_\_\_\_\_ [e.g. impact on PA Department of Public Welfare budget is \$1.8 billion.]
  - (iii) The impact on children and youth agencies is \$\_\_\_\_\_ [e.g. impact on PA Department of Public Welfare budget for children and youth is \$1 billion].

(g) Drug and alcohol problems uniquely affect most aspects of government in [name of state]. For example, they have a major impact on:

- (i) The [name of state Corrections Department] (crime);
- (ii) The [name of state Probation and Parole Board] (crime);
- (iii) The State Police (crime, car crashes);
- (iv) The Office of the Attorney General (crime, fraud);
- (iv) The Insurance Department (e.g. auto insurance, health insurance)
- (v) The [state Department(s) overseeing Commerce, Labor and/or Industry (workplace accidents, absenteeism, theft, fraud);
- (vi) The [state Department overseeing health issues](addiction-related diseases, injuries from crashes and other accidents, illegal diversion of addictive prescription drugs);
- (vii) The Department of Transportation (highway safety, driving under the influence); and
- (viii) The Department of Education (truancy, school violence, underperformance of students, teachers and schools).

***Section 3. Establishment of A Department Level Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.***

[The Single State Authority on Drugs and Alcohol shall be elevated to a cabinet level Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. The pertinent state Administrative Code section setting forth all of the Cabinet level departments shall be amended to add a Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, headed up by a Cabinet-level Secretary. All provisions in the state statutory scheme listing all of the Departments or Department Secretaries shall be amended to add this new Department or Department Secretary.]

***Section 4. Effective Date.***

This Act shall be effective on [reference to normal state method of determination of the effective date][reference to specific date].