

(2) *To enable insurers to become eligible for Federal reinsurance under the provisions of Title XI of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, which adds a new title to the National Housing Act: Title XII—National Insurance Development Program.*

(3) *To encourage the improvement of the condition of properties located in the urban areas of Maryland and to further orderly community development generally.*

(4) *To publicize the purposes and procedures of this Act to the end that no one may fail to seek its assistance through ignorance thereof.*

DEFINITIONS

478B.

As used in this subtitle, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) *“Association” means the Joint Insurance Association formed by insurers to assist applicants in urban areas in securing Essential Property Insurance, and to administer a program under this Act.*

(2) *“Commissioner” means the State Insurance Commissioner of Maryland.*

(3) *“Inspection Bureau” means the organization designated by the Association with the approval of the Commissioner to make inspections as required under this Act and to perform such other duties as may be authorized by the Association.*

(4) *“Insurer” means any insurance company or other organization which is authorized to engage in the insurance business under the laws of any state.*

(5) *“Premiums Written” means gross direct premiums (excluding premiums or portions of premiums relating to risks ceded to the Joint Insurance Association) charged during the second preceding calendar year with respect to property in this State on all policies of Essential Property Insurance and the Essential Property Insurance components of multi-peril policies as computed by the Association, less return premiums, dividends paid or credited to policyholders, or the unused or unabsorbed portions of premium deposits.*

(6) *“Essential Property Insurance” means insurance against direct loss to property as defined and limited in standard fire policies and extended coverage endorsement thereon, as approved by the Commissioner, and insurance for such types, classes and locations of property against the perils of vandalism, malicious mischief, burglary, or theft as the Secretary by rule shall designate. Such insurance shall not include automobile insurance and shall not include insurance on such types of manufacturing risks as may be excluded by the Commissioner.*

(7) *“Secretary” means the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.*

(8) *“Urban Area” includes any municipality or other political subdivision of Maryland, subject to population or other limitations defined in rules and regulations of the Secretary, and such additional areas as may be designated by the Commissioner.*