

CHAPTER 547

(House Bill 849)

AN ACT to add ~~six~~ FIVE new sections to Article 14 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland (1930 Edition), title "Howard County", said new sections to be known as Sections 198-I to ~~198-N~~ 198-M, to follow immediately after Section 198H thereof, as enacted by Chapter 862 of the Acts of 1947 and to be under the new sub-title "Housing Code", authorizing the Board of County Commissioners of Howard County to adopt a comprehensive housing code or parts thereof, prescribing minimum housing standards, fixing penalties for the violation thereof and providing for the administration and enforcement of this Act.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That ~~six~~ FIVE new sections be and they are hereby added to Article 14 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland (1930 Edition), title "Howard County", said new sections to be known as Sections 198-I to ~~198-N~~ 198-M, to follow immediately after Section 198H thereof, as enacted by Chapter 862 of the Acts of 1947, to be under the new sub-title "Housing Code", and to read as follows:

198-I. *For the purpose of promoting the health, safety, morals or general welfare, to prevent property deterioration and the development of slums, to maintain property values, to develop community and county wide awareness of the dangers inherent in unsanitary conditions in and about buildings used for human habitation and to provide living facilities in conformity with contemporary criteria of human dignity, the ~~Court~~ COUNTY Commissioners of Howard County are hereby empowered to adopt a comprehensive housing code or such parts thereof as said Commissioners deem necessary to safeguard the welfare of the people of Howard County.*

198J. *Such housing code, or parts thereof, may establish minimum standards governing the condition and maintenance of buildings used for human habitation; establish minimum standards governing supplied utilities and facilities and other physical things and conditions essential to make buildings safe, sanitary, and fit for human habitation; establish minimum standards governing the condition of dwelling units offered for rent; fix responsibilities and duties of owners and occupants of buildings used for human habitation; authorize the inspection of dwelling units and grounds adjacent thereto; provide for vacating dwelling units found to be unfit for human habitation; prescribe rules for proper maintenance of open spaces used in conjunction with dwelling units such as storage areas, elimination of weeds, grass, trash and debris; provide for rodent control and prevention of vermin infestation; provide for administration and enforcement and fix penalties for violation of the regulations.*

198K. *The Commissioners may provide that the requirements of the Housing Code, or such parts as may be adopted by said Commis-*

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.