

and from time to time to amend, supplement or abrogate a building code and a housing code or either of such codes; and relating generally to the procedure for adopting any such code, to its contents and subject matter and for its application.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 3 (s) of Article 25 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1960 Supplement), title "County Commissioners", sub-title "General Provisions", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

3.

(s) (1) *[And in] In Harford County, the County Commissioners may provide and prescribe regulations for the issuance of [building and] plumbing permits, to be required before [any building may be constructed or improved, and before] any sanitary systems, plumbing and fixtures may be installed within said county, and provide any fee or charges for any such permits, and the enforcement thereof. The County Commissioners are authorized to charge reasonable fees for the issuance of zoning certificates or permits for construction of improvements to real property. The County Commissioners of Harford County shall also have the power to adopt a plumbing code to regulate the construction of water, sewer, drainage, and sanitary facilities with power to designate and employ the necessary personnel to enforce said plumbing code and to provide criminal penalties for violation thereof. In the event the authority to adopt a plumbing code is exercised, the County Commissioners shall appoint an advisory plumbing board, with four year terms of office, consisting of a medical doctor, a plumber, and one other person to assist in the drafting and promulgation of said plumbing code and its enforcement.*

*(2) The County Commissioners of Harford County may adopt, and from time to time may amend, supplement or abrogate, a building code and a housing code, or either of such codes. The building code, if adopted, shall provide and prescribe regulations for the issuance of building permits to be required prior to the construction or improvement of any building; and any such code shall prescribe standards of construction, maintenance, and repair, covering structural safety, fire prevention requirements, light and ventilation, and proper means of ingress and egress. The housing code, if adopted, shall provide and prescribe regulations and standards for human habitation, covering sanitation, density of occupancy, open space requirements, rodent infestation, and human standards of occupancy.*

*A building code and a housing code, if either is adopted, and all regulations thereunder, shall be designed to assure and protect the public health, safety, comfort, and moral and economic welfare. They may include provisions for enforcement, including the appointment and maintenance of inspectors and including penalties for a violation of either a code or the regulations thereunder.*

*Any such code may incorporate by reference a portion or all, if applicable, of either a building code or a housing code, as the case may be, issued or proposed and made available for general circulation by any governmental agency or by any trade or professional association; but any subsequent amendment to or change in whatever is adopted by reference shall not be effective in Harford County until and unless it is specifically incorporated therein by action of the Board of County Commissioners.*