

*Section 266. Establishment of Urban Renewal Agency*

*The municipality may itself exercise all the powers granted by this subtitle, or may, if its legislative body by ordinance determines such action to be in the public interest elect to have such powers exercised by a separate public body or agency as hereinafter provided. In the event said legislative body makes such determination, it shall proceed by ordinance to establish a public body or agency to undertake in the municipality the activities authorized by this subtitle. Such ordinance shall include provisions establishing the number of members of such public body or agency, the manner of their appointment and removal, the terms of said members and their compensation. The ordinance may include such additional provisions relating to the organization of said public body or agency as may be necessary. In the event the legislative body enacts such an ordinance, all of the powers by this subtitle granted to the municipality shall, from the effective date of said ordinance, be vested in the public body or agency thereby established, except:*

*(a) The power to pass a resolution to initiate an urban renewal project pursuant to Section 218 of this subtitle.*

*(b) The power to issue general obligation bonds pursuant to Section 223 of this subtitle.*

*(c) The power to appropriate funds, and to levy taxes and assessments pursuant to Section ~~216~~ 265 (c) of this subtitle.*

*Section 267. Initiation of Project*

*In order to initiate an urban renewal project, the legislative body of the municipality shall adopt a resolution which*

*(a) finds that one or more slum or blighted areas exist in such municipality;*

*(b) locates and defines the said slum or blighted areas;*

*(c) finds that the rehabilitation, redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of such area or areas, is necessary in the interest of the public health, safety, morals or welfare of the residents of such municipality.*

*Section 268. Preparation and Approval of Plan for Urban Renewal Project*

*The municipality, in order to carry out the purposes of this subtitle, shall prepare or cause to be prepared an urban renewal plan for slum or blighted areas in the municipality, and shall formally approve such plan. Prior to its approval of an urban renewal project, the municipality shall submit such plan to the planning body of the municipality, for review and recommendations as to its conformity with the master plan for the development of the municipality as a whole. The planning body shall submit its written recommendation with respect to the proposed urban renewal plan to the municipality within sixty days after receipt of the plan for review; upon receipt of the recommendation of the planning body or, if no recommendations are received within said sixty days, then without such recommendations, the municipality may proceed with a public hearing on the proposed urban renewal project. The municipality shall hold a*