

in which counties become code counties AND ABANDON THIS STATUS, and to their operations as such, and relating generally to the status, powers, duties, and functions of code counties in this State AND TO THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND OF ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS IN RELATION THERETO.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Article 25B be and it is hereby added to the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition and 1966 Supplement), to follow immediately after Article 25A thereof, and to be under the new title "Home Rule for Code Counties," and to read as follows:

Article 25B

HOME RULE FOR CODE COUNTIES

Definitions and Limitations

1. *Definitions and limitations.*

(a) "Code county" (as defined in Article 11F of the Constitution, Sec. 1) means a county which is not a charter county under Article 11A of the Constitution and which has adopted the optional powers of home rule provided in Article 11F of the Constitution and this Article.

(b) "Code home rule status" means a county under and having the authority of Article 11F of the Constitution and this Article.

(c) "Public local law" (as defined in Article 11F of this Constitution, Sec. 1) means a law applicable to the incorporation, organization, or government of a code county and contained in the county's code of public local laws. The term does not include: (1) the charters of municipal corporations under Article 11E of the Constitution, (2) the laws or charters of counties under Article 11A of the Constitution, (3) laws, whether or not State-wide in application, in the code of public general laws, (4) laws which apply to more than one county, (5) ordinances and resolutions of a code county enacted under public local laws.

(d) "Registered voter" means a person who is registered to vote in State and county elections under the provisions of Article 33 of this Code.

Classification

2. *Classification of code counties.*

The General Assembly determines that there is one classification of code counties. All counties functioning under the provisions of Article 11F of the Constitution are members of that class and subject to the constitutional and statutory law applicable thereto.

Adoption of Code Form of Home Rule

3. *Authority.*

Authority to adopt the code form of home rule is vested in the Board of County Commissioners of the county, subject to being approved by the registered voters of the county at referendum.