

and is 17 years of age or older, ~~irrespective of the aforementioned one-year residency requirement,~~ may obtain [an equivalent certificate] a diploma by examination in accordance with this section. The State Board of Education may waive any or all of the age, residence, and six months withdrawal period requirements of this section, if they deem such waiver justified.

(b) The State Board of Education shall provide for examinations for such persons on at least two occasions in each year at places throughout the State reasonably convenient for the applicants. On each occasion, examinations shall be offered in appropriate high school subject areas. This may be construed to mean some type of comprehensive examinations, as determined by the State Board of Education. Failure in any examination shall not prevent the taking of retests. Members of the armed forces may earn the Maryland [certificate] high school diploma by taking the examinations furnished by the United States Armed Forces Institute and given by the appropriate service officer. The [certificate] diploma shall be awarded in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the State Board of Education.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and having been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved May 17, 1971.

CHAPTER 440
(Senate Bill 224)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 8.01, 8.03, 8.05, 8.09, 8.10 and 8.12 of Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume), title "Zoning and Planning," subtitle "Historic Area Zoning," to generally clarify wording and procedure, substituting the word "reconstruction" for "repair" where appropriate; providing for designation of Maryland Historical Trust by local commissions to make studies where desired; and to provide a ninety-day negotiation period where a structure of unusual importance is in need of preservation under certain circumstances.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Sections 8.01, 8.03, 8.05, 8.09, 8.10 and 8.12 of Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume), title "Zoning and Planning," subtitle "Historic Area Zoning," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

8.01.

(a) The preservation of structures of historic and architectural value is a public purpose in this State. The board of county com-