

CHAPTER 160

(House Bill 869)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Sections 3(a) and (s) of Article 25 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1966 Replacement Volume, 1971 Supplement and 1972 Interim Supplement), title "County Commissioners," subtitle "General Provisions," to add Worcester County to those counties given certain enumerated powers for building and housing codes, to generally relate to the inclusion of Worcester County where certain building and housing codes are adopted or amended and to clarify the [substance and] language therein.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Sections 3(a) and (s) of Article 25 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1966 Replacement Volume, 1971 Supplement and 1972 Interim Supplement), title "County Commissioners," subtitle "General Provisions," be and they are hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

3.

(a) The county commissioners of each county in this State, except Worcester, (except as provided in [subsection] SUBSECTIONS (1) , (S)(2), (X) AND (X-1) hereof), Prince George's, Washington (except as hereinbelow provided), Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Cecil, Howard and Queen Anne's (except as specifically provided in subsection (f)) counties, in addition to, but not in substitution of, the powers which have been or may hereafter be granted them, shall have the following express powers:

(s)

(1) In Harford, Frederick and Kent counties, the county commissioners may provide and prescribe regulations for the issuance of plumbing permits [] to be required before any sanitary systems, plumbing and fixtures may be installed within [said] THE county [] and provide any fee or charges for any such permits [] and [the] FOR THEIR enforcement [thereo]. 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 and Frederick counties 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] THE 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] THE plumbing code and its enforcement.

(2) The county commissioners of Harford, Frederick, Caroline, Calvert , WORCESTER and Kent counties 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 buildings; and any such code shall prescribe standards of construction, maintenance, and repair, covering structural safety, fire prevention requirements, lights 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.