

to Article 44A - Housing Authorities, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1973 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 44A - Housing Authorities

8A.

(A) IT IS HEREBY FOUND AND DECLARED THAT THERE EXISTS WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY A CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF DECENT, SAFE AND SANITARY DWELLING ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE EITHER TO RENT OR PURCHASE WHICH PERSONS OF ELIGIBLE INCOME CAN AFFORD AND THAT, AS A RESULT, SUCH PERSONS ARE FORCED TO OCCUPY OVERCROWDED AND CONGESTED DWELLING ACCOMMODATIONS, OR ARE REQUIRED TO PAY AN INORDINATE SHARE OF THEIR INCOME FOR SHELTER; THAT THE AFORESAID CONDITIONS NECESSITATE EXCESSIVE AND DISPROPORTIONATE EXPENDITURES OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY, FIRE AND ACCIDENT PROTECTION, AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES; THAT THE SHORTAGE OF DECENT, SAFE AND SANITARY DWELLINGS CANNOT WHOLLY BE RELIEVED THROUGH THE OPERATION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE; AND THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING FOR PERSONS OF ELIGIBLE INCOME, AND/OR THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO ASSIST IN SECURING THE PRODUCTION OF SUCH HOUSING ARE, THEREFORE, NOT COMPETITIVE WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE; AND THAT THE NECESSITY FOR SUCH CONSTRUCTION AND THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, FOR THE PROVISIONS HEREINAFTER ENACTED, ARE HEREBY DECLARED AS A MATTER OF LEGISLATIVE DETERMINATION TO BE VALID PUBLIC PURPOSES.

(B) FROM AND AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT, IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, THE PUBLIC BODY CORPORATE AND POLITIC ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, HERETOFORE KNOWN AS THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND SHALL HAVE SEVEN, RATHER THAN FIVE, COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED AND EXERCISING THE POWERS AND DUTIES AS SET FORTH IN THIS ARTICLE. THE COMMISSIONERS PRESENTLY IN OFFICE SHALL CONTINUE TO SERVE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TERMS. THE TWO ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONERS PROVIDED FOR HEREIN SHALL BE DESIGNATED TO SERVE FOR TERMS OF FOUR AND FIVE YEARS, RESPECTIVELY, FROM THE DATE OF THEIR APPOINTMENT, BUT THEREAFTER SAID COMMISSIONERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR A TERM OF OFFICE OF FIVE YEARS.

(C) THE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHALL, IN ADDITION TO THE POWERS ENUMERATED IN THIS ARTICLE, HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO EXERCISE ALL OR ANY PART OR COMBINATION OF SUCH POWERS TO PROVIDE FOR HOUSING OR HOUSING PROJECTS FOR PERSONS OF ELIGIBLE INCOME; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE EXERCISE OF