

Preamble

WHEREAS, The American Red Cross, Baltimore Chapter, (hereinafter referred to as the Baltimore Regional Red Cross) has provided service to this area for the past 68 years; and

WHEREAS, The services of the Baltimore Regional Red Cross include emergency services when disasters strike, assistance to military personnel and their families, nursing and safety programs, services to the aged and youth, and a voluntary blood donor program; and

WHEREAS, The services of the Baltimore Regional Red Cross directly benefit all citizens of Central Maryland, including the 50,000 employees of the State; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore area hospitals have requested the Baltimore Regional Red Cross to expand its blood program to help relieve an acute blood supply shortage and to increase the supply of the healthiest blood possible; and

WHEREAS, The Baltimore Regional Red Cross currently occupies an 88 year old structure which is inadequate to meet the growing need for expanded Red Cross services and programs; and

WHEREAS, The Board of the Baltimore Regional Red Cross has entered into a contract to purchase the Peterson, Howell and Heather Building at 2701 North Charles Street, in Baltimore City, and determined that said modern, six-story structure is ideally located and suited for the future needs of Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, The acquisition of said Building will enable the Baltimore Regional Red Cross to expand its services and programs and to increase the supply of blood distributed to area hospitals and to such vital facilities serving all Maryland as the Shock Trauma Unit of the University of Maryland Hospital; and

WHEREAS, The total new capital funds needed from private and public sources to purchase the Building is \$1,250,000, of which \$1,000,000 is to be supplied by pledges from the business community and the Baltimore Regional Red Cross needs \$250,000 from other sources; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland over the years has subsidized other nonpublic institutions whose programs improve the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the General Assembly of Maryland to appropriate an aggregate sum of \$250,000 to aid in the acquisition by the Baltimore Regional Red