

Public Works, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1974 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 78A - Public Works

CONSOLIDATED PERMIT PROCEDURES

56. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT ONEROUS BURDENS ARE PLACED ON PERSONS UNDERTAKING DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BY REASON OF THE VARYING AND TIME CONSUMING PROCEDURES IN OBTAINING NECESSARY PERMITS FROM STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS THAT THE PRESENT METHODS FOR PERMITTING PUBLIC COMMENT IN RELATION TO SUCH PROJECTS ARE CUMBERSOME AND TIME CONSUMING, AND PLACE UNDUE HARDSHIP ON MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, THEREBY INHIBITING THE PUBLIC'S ABILITY TO PRESENT ITS VIEWS TO STATE AND LOCAL PERMIT GRANTING AGENCIES.

(B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO PROVIDE FOR A CONSOLIDATION OF THE FACT-FINDING PROCESSES INVOLVED IN ISSUING THESE VARIOUS PERMITS IN ORDER (1) TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY DELAY, UNREASONABLE EXPENSE, AND DUPLICATION OF EFFORT IN OBTAINING NECESSARY PERMITS, THEREBY FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECTS WHICH ARE IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTEREST OF THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND; AND (2) TO REMOVE IMPEDIMENTS TO THE EFFECTIVE EXPRESSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON THESE PROJECTS, THEREBY SAFEGUARDING AGAINST THE APPROVAL OF PROJECTS WHICH ARE NOT IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTEREST OF THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND.

(C) THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE IS TO COORDINATE ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION MAKING BY (1) CONSOLIDATING APPLICATION PROCEDURES TO ASSIST THOSE PERSONS WHO MUST OBTAIN PERMITS FROM ONE OR MORE LOCAL AND STATE AGENCIES; AND (2) CONSOLIDATING NECESSARY HEARINGS TO ASSIST STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES IN OBTAINING ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION PERTAINING TO APPLICATIONS WHICH MUST BE ACTED UPON BY THEM.

57. DEFINITIONS

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED UNLESS THE CONTEXT OF THEIR USE REQUIRES OTHERWISE.

(B) "COUNTY" INCLUDES BALTIMORE CITY.

(C) "LOCAL GOVERNMENT" MEANS A COUNTY OR A