

BY adding to

Article 78A - Public Works  
Section 58A and-64A  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1980 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 78A - Public Works

56.

(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 ASSURE PROMPT, REASONABLE, AND DECISIVE ACTION ON, AS WELL AS 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 AND EXPEDITE 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; AND (3) REQUIRING ACTION ON PERMIT APPLICATIONS WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME WHETHER OR NOT SUBJECT TO CONSOLIDATED PROCEDURES.

57.

(d) "Permit" means a license, permit, certificate, or other document of approval required to be obtained from a