

(1978 Replacement Volume and 1981 Supplement)

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

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and  
Administrative Departments

15B.

(c-1) (1) As used in this subtitle, but only until March 15, [1982] 1983, "crisis," "disaster," "catastrophe," and "or similar public emergency" also refers to a situation where the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of this State are threatened by reason of an actual or impending acute shortage in usable energy resources. Upon reasonable apprehension that such a crisis, disaster, catastrophe, or similar public emergency exists, the Governor may proclaim a state of emergency. In that event the Governor's orders, rules, and regulations, promulgated as provided in this subtitle, may also include, by way of further enumerated example rather than limitation, and notwithstanding any other provision or limitation of State or local law:

(i) Provisions for the establishment and implementation of programs, controls, standards, priorities, and quotas for the allocation, conservation, and consumption of energy resources;

(ii) The suspension and modification of existing standards and requirements affecting or affected by the use of energy resources, including those relating to air quality control, the type and composition of various energy resources, the production and distribution of energy resources, and the hours and days during which public buildings and commercial and industrial establishments may or are required to remain open; and/or

(iii) The establishment and implementation of regional programs and agreements for the purposes of coordinating the energy resource programs and actions of the State with those of the federal government and of other states and localities.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and having been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.