

~~OF-FACT,--WHETHER-IN--THE--NATURE--OF--AN--UNDERSTATEMENT--OR
OVERSTATEMENT--OF--FINANCIAL--CONDITION,--OR--ANY--OTHER-FACT
MATERIAL-TO-ACTION-OF-THE-SECRETARY-~~

(a) The General Assembly finds and declares,

(1) That many residents of Maryland are living in dwelling units which do not conform to building, health, safety, fire, occupancy or other codes and standards applicable to housing, and that this condition impedes the development of healthy, safe, and viable communities in Maryland;

(2) That owner-occupants of housing in need of rehabilitation are frequently of low income, that nonoccupant owners of such housing frequently incur high risks in its ownership and management, and that financing by the private sector is therefore frequently not available to accomplish necessary and desirable rehabilitation;

(3) That the rehabilitation of suitable housing will increase its economic life, is often more economical and less disruptive than replacement of the housing and the relocation of its occupants, can better promote community development when conducted through organized housing rehabilitation programs, is essential to promote sound community development in the State, and can be facilitated by the rehabilitation of commercial building serving communities where housing rehabilitation is desirable;

(4) That the rehabilitation of housing, the development of healthy, safe, and viable communities in Maryland, and the rehabilitation of commercial buildings to facilitate the rehabilitation and development of housing are a proper public purpose and State use for which public money may be expended and property may be acquired[.]; AND

(5) THAT THE PROVISION OF HEALTHY AND SAFE HOUSING FOR MIGRATORY WORKERS IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN AND EXPAND THE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES DEPENDENT ON THIS SOURCE OF LABOR AND IS A PROPER PUBLIC PURPOSE FOR WHICH PUBLIC MONEY MAY BE EXPENDED AND PROPERTY MAY BE ACQUIRED.

(b) (1) As used in this section the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(2) "County" includes Baltimore City.

(3) "Department" means the Department of Economic and Community Development, and "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

(4) "Families of limited income" means persons and families (including those defined as "elderly" in