

such housing for the purposes set forth in this subsection are, therefore, not competitive with private enterprise; and that the necessity for such housing and the expenditure of public funds in the public interest, for the purposes stated and the provisions hereinafter enacted, are hereby declared as a matter of legislative determination to be valid public purposes.

(b) (1) In Montgomery County, the public body corporate and politic established pursuant to this article, heretofore known as the housing authority of Montgomery County, shall be known as the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County and shall have seven commissioners appointed and exercising the powers and duties as set forth in this article.

(2) The County Executive, with the approval of the County Council, shall appoint or remove the commissioners of the Housing Opportunities Commission.

(3) After June 30, 1982, the County Council, prior to approval of each appointment to the Commission, shall conduct a public interview of the County Executive's nominee for appointment to the Commission.

(4) The commissioners shall be appointed for a term of office of five years.

(c) The Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County shall[, in] CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC BODY CORPORATE AND POLITIC, EXERCISING PUBLIC AND ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS, AND HAVING ALL THE POWERS NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT TO CARRY OUT AND EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES AND PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE. IN addition to the powers enumerated in this article, THE COMMISSION SHALL have the authority to exercise all or any part or combination of such powers to provide for housing or housing projects for persons of eligible income; provided, however, that the exercise of such power is pursuant to and in accordance with local law or a contract or contracts with Montgomery County. For purposes of this section, the phrase "persons of eligible income" shall mean persons who individually or as part of a family unit lack sufficient income or assets (as determined by the Montgomery County Executive or his designee) to enable them, without financial assistance, to live in decent, safe and sanitary dwellings without overcrowding. With respect to the elderly or handicapped or persons and families with other special needs, the meaning of the phrase "persons of eligible income" may be adjusted by the County Executive or his designee, if other criteria are considered more appropriate in achieving the public purposes stated in subsection (a) of this section. The determination of persons of eligible income by the County Executive under this section is conclusive of the matters determined. The County Executive may amend the meaning of "persons of eligible income" by issuing a proposed executive regulation. The regulation will become effective only after a public hearing held in accordance with procedures established by the County Council.