

congested dwelling accommodations, or are required to pay an inordinate share of their income for shelter; that the aforesaid conditions necessitate excessive and disproportionate expenditures of public funds for public health and safety, fire and accident protection, and other public services and facilities; that the shortage of decent, safe and sanitary dwellings cannot wholly be relieved through the operation of private enterprise; and that the construction of housing for persons of eligible income, and/or the expenditure of public funds to assist in securing the production of such housing are, therefore, not competitive with private enterprise; and that the necessity for such construction and the expenditure of public funds in the public interest, for the provisions hereinafter enacted, are hereby declared as a matter of legislative determination to be valid public purposes.

(b) The housing authority of Baltimore City[, in] SHALL 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, [shall have the authority] THE HOUSING AUTHORITY IS AUTHORIZED to exercise all or any part or combination of such powers to provide for housing or housing projects for persons of eligible income.

(c) In addition to the powers enumerated in this article and any powers given by local law, the housing authority of Baltimore City, in providing housing for persons of eligible income in accordance with subsection (b) above, shall have the following powers:

(1) Within its area of operation: to make mortgage loans and make rent subsidy payments to persons of eligible income.

(2) Within its area of operation: to make construction loans and long-term mortgage loans to any person, firm, partnership, association, joint venture, or corporation, public or private, to produce housing for persons of eligible income.

(3) Within its area of operation: to purchase and to insure mortgages secured by housing for persons of eligible income.

(D) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE POWERS ENUMERATED IN THIS ARTICLE, THE AUTHORITY MAY EXERCISE ITS POWERS AS GRANTED BY THIS ARTICLE IRRESPECTIVE OF THE FACT THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES MAY SUPPLANT DISPLACE OR LIMIT FREE ECONOMIC COMPETITION.

(2) THE POWERS GRANTED TO THE AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED: