

(5) (4) That the social and economic harms caused by the closing, relocation, or reduction in operations of industrial, commercial, and business enterprises are aggravated by the lack of adequate advance notice of the decisions to close, relocate, or reduce operations and that the lack of notice prevents employees and communities from seeking alternatives to, or otherwise preparing for, the closing or relocation;

(6) -- That -- industrial, -- commercial, -- and -- business enterprises which -- voluntarily -- choose -- to -- close, -- relocate, -- or reduce -- their -- operations -- should -- take -- into -- account -- the -- adverse social -- and -- economic -- effects -- of -- its -- decisions -- on -- its -- employees -- and community -- and -- should -- contribute -- to -- the -- effort -- of -- remedying -- these effects -- created -- by -- its -- decisions;

(7) -- That -- in -- some -- cases -- employee -- community -- ownership of -- enterprises -- provide -- means -- of -- preserving -- jobs -- and -- stabilizing the -- economy -- of -- communities -- affected -- by -- closings -- and -- relocations; and -- that -- such -- enterprises -- should -- be -- encouraged --

(5) That it is in the best interests of the economic and social well-being of the citizens of Maryland for industrial, commercial and business enterprises to voluntarily participate in a program with the State government to mitigate the impact or remove the necessity for closings, relocations or reduction in operations.

Therefore, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of Maryland to promote the health, safety, right to gainful employment, business opportunities, and general welfare of its citizens through the enactment of the provisions of this Act; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments

206E:

(A) - (1) -- IN -- THIS -- SECTION -- THE -- FOLLOWING -- WORDS -- HAVE -- THE MEANINGS -- INDICATED.

(2) -- "EMPLOYEE" -- MEANS -- ANY -- FULL -- TIME -- OR -- PART -- TIME EMPLOYEE WHO WORKED FOR AT LEAST 13 WEEKS DURING THE PRECEDING 52 WEEKS -- AT -- A -- WORKPLACE -- AND -- WHOSE -- EMPLOYMENT -- IS -- TERMINATED -- BY -- A REDUCTION -- IN -- OPERATIONS -- AT -- THAT -- WORKPLACE.

(3) - (1) -- "EMPLOYER" -- MEANS -- ANY -- PERSON, -- CORPORATION, -- OR -- OTHER -- ENTITY -- THAT -- EMPLOYS -- AT -- LEAST -- 50 -- INDIVIDUALS -- AND -- OPERATES -- AN INDUSTRIAL, -- COMMERCIAL, -- OR -- BUSINESS -- ENTERPRISE -- IN -- THE -- STATE.