

(K) "UNDERTAKING" MEANS A PROJECT THAT INVOLVES OR MAY LEAD TO BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, BUILDING ALTERATION, OR LAND DISTURBANCE.

181B.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

(1) HISTORIC PROPERTIES SIGNIFICANT TO THE STATE'S HERITAGE ARE BEING LOST OR SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERED, OFTEN INADVERTENTLY, WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY;

(2) ONCE HISTORIC PROPERTIES ARE LOST OR DESTROYED, A VITAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY LIFE AND DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BE REPLACED;

(3) PRESERVATION OF THE STATE'S HERITAGE IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST SO THAT PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY BE ENRICHED BY THE CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, INSPIRATIONAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE PAST; AND

(4) INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF OUR HISTORIC RESOURCES, ESTABLISHMENT OF BETTER MEANS OF IDENTIFYING AND ADMINISTERING THEM, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THEIR PRESERVATION WILL ASSIST THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL GROWTH OF THIS STATE--; AND

(5) THE STATE'S HERITAGE HAS BEEN ENRICHED BY PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE STATE'S PRIVATE PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR CONTINUING ACTIVITIES ARE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

[181A.] 181C.

The Maryland Historical Trust is hereby created as an instrumentality of the State of Maryland as part of the Department of Economic and Community Development for the purpose of preserving [and maintaining historical, aesthetic and cultural properties, buildings, fixtures, furnishings, and appurtenances pertaining in any way to the province and State of Maryland from earliest times], PROTECTING, AND ENHANCING DISTRICTS, SITES, BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND OBJECTS SIGNIFICANT IN THE PREHISTORY, HISTORY, UPLAND AND UNDERWATER ARCHEOLOGY, ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, AND CULTURE OF THE STATE, to encourage others to do so and to promote interest in and study of such matters. [As used in this subtitle, the words "property" and "properties" include scenic, architectural, or facade easements on buildings or structures.]

[181B.] 181D.

The purpose of the Maryland Historical Trust is declared to be of general benefit to the citizens of the State of Maryland and charitable in nature. The Trust shall be a body corporate and shall have perpetual existence, subject to modification by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland if the same is