

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative  
Departments

266DD-1.

(a) It is found and declared that in this era of rapid population growth and expansion and of increasing urbanization, there is a need, in many areas of the State, to promote sound community development.

It is further found and declared that the counties and municipalities of this State do not have adequate resources to, and the ordinary operations of private enterprise cannot without State assistance, deal effectively with all of the problems of sound community development.

It is further found that a need exists to coordinate and concentrate federal, State, regional and local public and private community development efforts and resources.

It is further found and declared that there is a shortage of adequate, safe, and sanitary housing for families of limited income particularly; and that by increasing the housing supply for families of limited incomes this shortage will be alleviated and sound community development promoted.

It is further found and declared that the increase of opportunities for homeownership is desirable and promotes sound community development.

It is further found and declared that the reduction of the consumption of energy and the increase in the utilization of solar energy by the provision of financial assistance to encourage energy conservation and solar energy improvements to housing and buildings used for commercial purposes promotes sound community development and is otherwise in the public interest.

IT IS FURTHER FOUND AND DECLARED THAT THE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTAINED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH INCLUDES STREETS, SIDEWALKS, CURBS, SEWER AND WATER SYSTEMS, BRIDGES, AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS, IS IN NEED OF REHABILITATION AND CONSTRUCTION, THAT THE RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS HAVE BECOME SCARCER IN RECENT YEARS, AND THAT PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL, ACCESSIBLE, AND UNCOMPLICATED MECHANISM FOR FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS PROMOTES SOUND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, IS VITAL TO A STRONG ECONOMY, IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND OTHERWISE PROMOTES THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.