

Housing Act of 1937, and rural low income housing financed under § 515 of the Housing Act of 1949; and

WHEREAS, The loss of this federally assisted housing will occur during a period of low production of additional low and moderate income housing; and as a result, the shortage will impose a severe hardship and inflict injury on current tenants in particular, and will decrease the supply of low income housing to the detriment of the general health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of Maryland; and the loss of this assisted housing would also jeopardize the substantial public investment in the existing supply of housing for low and moderate income persons; and

WHEREAS, There is an urgent need to mitigate the impact on existing tenants of this loss of affordable rental housing units, to discourage the displacement of such persons and households, to protect the supply of affordable housing for low and moderate income households in Maryland, and to protect the public investment in assisted rental housing; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland recognizes, finds, and declares that this title should be enacted to provide measures to assist in preserving the availability and affordability to low and moderate income individuals and households of the existing stock of federally insured and assisted housing in the State, and to avoid or reduce the hardships from the displacement of tenants currently residing in such housing; now, therefore,

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

Article 83B - Department of Housing and Community Development

TITLE 9. ASSISTED HOUSING PRESERVATION ACT

9-101.

(A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:

(B) "ASSISTED HOUSEHOLD" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS WHO OCCUPY A RENTAL UNIT IN AN ASSISTED PROJECT AND WHOSE GROSS ANNUAL INCOME DOES NOT EXCEED UPPER INCOME LIMITS IMPOSED BY ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ASSISTED PROJECT, OR SUCH UPPER INCOME LIMITS AS MAY BE ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY FROM TIME TO TIME, WHICH LIMITS MAY VARY FOR ANY PARTICULAR PROJECT OR PARTICULAR AREA OF THE STATE TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSES OF THIS TITLE.