

(1996 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Current law classifies each county that has adopted code home rule under Article XI-F of the Maryland Constitution as a single class; and

WHEREAS, A single classification restricts the General Assembly's ability to adequately address the diversity of interests and concerns among various regions of the State; and

WHEREAS, This rigidity not only limits the General Assembly's ability to address concerns of counties that have adopted code home rule, but may well discourage nonhome rule counties from achieving the benefits of code home rule under Article XI-F of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the need for flexibility among counties throughout the State, the drafters of the Code Home Rule Amendment proposed, and the voters of the State ratified, authorization for the General Assembly to classify code counties by grouping them into not more than four classes, based on criteria that the General Assembly considers appropriate; now, therefore,

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

Article 25B – Home Rule for Code Counties

1.

(a) "Code county" (as defined in Article XI-F of the Constitution, § 1) means a county which is not a charter county under Article XI-A of the Constitution and which has adopted the optional powers of home rule provided in Article XI-F of the Constitution and this article.

[2.

The General Assembly determines that there is one classification of code counties. All counties functioning under the provisions of Article XI-F of the Constitution are members of that class and subject to the constitutional and statutory law applicable thereto.]

2.

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

(2) "CENTRAL MARYLAND" MEANS ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, BALTIMORE CITY, BALTIMORE COUNTY, CARROLL COUNTY, FREDERICK COUNTY, HARFORD COUNTY, HOWARD COUNTY, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.