application of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Maryland Building Rehabilitation Code and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 83B - Department of Housing and Community Development

Section 6-404(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article 83B - Department of Housing and Community Development

Section 6-501 through 6-505, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 5. Maryland Building Rehabilitation Code"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 48 - Inspections

Section 170

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 89 - Miscellaneous Business, Work, and Safety Provisions

Section 49B(e) and (o)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Natural Resources

Section 5-9A-05(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

## Preamble

WHEREAS, In this era of rapid population growth, while new residential and commercial development consumes agricultural land, forests, and other undeveloped land, thousands of existing buildings in our communities are not being fully utilized or are abandoned. Many existing buildings contain historic architectural elements that are in danger of deteriorating or being lost; and

WHEREAS, The migration of businesses and residents out of our cities and towns threatens the economic vitality, health, and safety of the citizens living in these communities; and