

~~WHEREAS, Vacant and underutilized buildings pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the State; and~~

~~WHEREAS, There is private and public interest in rehabilitating older buildings, which would be enhanced if regulatory procedures and standards regarding rehabilitation and reuse are made predictable, consistent, and flexible; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The rehabilitation of existing buildings in Maryland communities is often hampered by certain constraints in the building construction regulatory system; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The many existing codes that apply to rehabilitation projects are sometimes conflicting and overlapping and vary, from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, posing a challenge to redevelopment; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Building construction regulatory procedures and standards for the rehabilitation of existing buildings will be improved by the adoption of a consistent statewide building rehabilitation code; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National Association of Home Builders Research Center have developed a model rehabilitation code known as the Nationally Applicable Recommended Rehabilitation provisions; 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

6-404.

(a) The Department shall:

(1) Establish and maintain a central automated data base that, at a minimum, contains:

- (i) The Maryland Building Performance Standards;
- (ii) Local amendments to the Maryland Building Performance Standards;
- (iii) The State Fire Prevention Code and any amendments to the code promulgated by the State Fire Prevention Commission;
- (iv) Fire codes adopted by counties and municipalities and any amendments;
- (v) The Electrical Code required under Article 38A, §§ 59 and 60 of the Code;
- (vi) Local amendments to the Electrical Code required under Article 38A, §§ 59 and 60 of the Code;