

Section 49B(e) and (q)  
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~~

~~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