

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**

SUBTITLE 8. COMMUNITY LEGACY PROGRAM.

4-801.

~~THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT:~~

~~(1) SPRAWL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO THE LANDSCAPE IN MARYLAND CONTINUE AT AN ALARMING RATE, THREATENING THE EXISTENCE OF MANY COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE;~~

~~(2) THE LACK OF REINVESTMENT IN COMMUNITIES BY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES HAS CAUSED THE LOSS OF CONFIDENCE IN MANY COMMUNITIES WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE DECLINE OF PROPERTY VALUES AND THE SHIFT OF RESIDENTS AWAY FROM THE COMMUNITY;~~

~~(3) MANY OF THESE COMMUNITIES HAVE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THEM THAT, WHEN STRENGTHENED BY STATE RESOURCES, CAN ENABLE THEM TO REVERSE THESE TRENDS AND PROSPER;~~

~~(4) THE INVESTMENT IN THE REVITALIZATION OF EXISTING COMMUNITIES IS NECESSARY TO REDUCE OUTWARD PRESSURE FOR SPRAWL, PRESERVE THE ETHNIC AND ECONOMIC DIVERSITY OF EXISTING COMMUNITIES, AND ENHANCE COMMUNITY LIFE FOR BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS; AND~~

~~(5) ALTHOUGH EXISTING STATE, COUNTY, AND LOCAL HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS HELP TO ADDRESS THE EFFECT OF SPRAWL DEVELOPMENT, THERE IS A NEED FOR A PROGRAM WHICH LEVERAGES AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT OR REVERSE DECLINE OR DISINVESTMENT IN EXISTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTIES.~~

4-802.

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

(B) "APPLICATION" MEANS AN APPLICATION TO THE BOARD THAT MAY INCLUDE ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

(1) A REQUEST THAT AN AREA BE DESIGNATED AS A COMMUNITY LEGACY AREA;

(2) A REQUEST TO APPROVE A COMMUNITY LEGACY PLAN; OR

(3) A REQUEST TO APPROVE A COMMUNITY LEGACY PROJECT.

(C) "BOARD" MEANS THE COMMUNITY LEGACY BOARD.