

WHEREAS, As the site of the Maryland's first permanent settlement and capital, Historic St. Mary's City contains irreplaceable historic, archeological and natural resources significant to a full understanding of the heritage and culture of Maryland, and that are worthy of protection and preservation; and

WHEREAS, Historic St. Mary's City was the site of influential experiments and innovations in religious toleration, civil liberties, and political democracy that are worthy of celebration and perpetuation; and

WHEREAS, The resources, ideas and accomplishments represented by Historic St. Mary's City are of national significance and should be studied, managed, and interpreted fully for the education, enjoyment and enlightenment of the visiting public; 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**

1-204.

(a) The following agencies, boards, commissions, councils, corporations, authorities, trusts, and divisions shall be included within the Department:

- (8) HISTORIC St. Mary's City Commission;

5-101.

(a) There is a Division of Historical and Cultural Programs as an organizational unit within the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(b) The Division of Historical and Cultural Programs includes:

(1) [The St. Mary's City Commission] THE HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION;

(2) The Commission on Afro-American History and Culture;

(3) The Commission on Indian Affairs;

(4) The Maryland Ethnic Heritage Commission; and

(5) The Maryland Historical Trust.

Subtitle 2. [St. Mary's City Commission] HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION

[5-201.

The St. Mary's City Commission is created for the purposes of preserving, developing, and maintaining historic St. Mary's City, and with the membership, powers, and duties here provided. The St. Mary's City Commission shall be under the jurisdiction of the Department.]