

(3) At least 70 percent of the families living in the area or within a reasonable proximity within that county to that area have incomes that are less than an amount equal to 80 percent of the median family income within the political subdivision in which the area is located; or

(4) Population in the area or within a reasonable proximity within that county to that area decreased by 10 percent between the date of the most recent census and the date of the immediately preceding census, and the political subdivision can demonstrate to the Secretary's satisfaction that either chronic abandonment or demolition of property is occurring in that area or substantial property tax arrearages exist within that area.

(b) (1) The Secretary may establish by regulation any other requirements that the Secretary reasonably determines are necessary and appropriate to assure that the purposes of this subtitle are satisfied.

(2) BEFORE CONSIDERING DATA OTHER THAN THE MOST RECENT CENSUS FOR PURPOSES OF MAKING A DETERMINATION UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION, THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS SPECIFYING ALTERNATIVE DATA THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO THE SECRETARY.

(c) In determining if an area meets the requirements of this section the Secretary may consider data provided by the United States Bureau of the Census from the most recent census or any other reliable data which the Secretary determines to be acceptable for the purposes for which such data are used.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1998.

Approved May 21, 1998.

CHAPTER 597

(Senate Bill 290)

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners - Statutory Deadlines

FOR the purpose of altering the statutory deadlines for certain actions relating to the New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the New Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Education

Section 4-309(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)