

Funds; that the existence of those areas contributes to the spread of crime and disease, constitutes an economic and moral liability, decreases the tax base, reduces tax revenues, increases juvenile delinquency, aggravates traffic conditions and causes numerous traffic problems; that the prevention and elimination of these conditions is a matter of public concern of the State of Maryland and Betterton, Kent County. It is further found and declared that the existence of these conditions makes it necessary to acquire private property for redevelopment, renewal, and rehabilitation and such acquisition is hereby declared to be for a public purpose; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Sections 97A through 97M, inclusive, to be under the new subheading "Redevelopment - Urban Renewal", be and they are hereby added to the Public Local Laws of Kent County being Article 15 of the Public Local Laws of Maryland (1968 Edition and 1975 Supplement, as amended) to read as follows:

Article 15

REDEVELOPMENT - URBAN RENEWAL

97A. DEFINITIONS

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

(B) "FEDERAL GOVERNMENT" MEANS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OR ANY AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY, CORPORATE OR OTHERWISE, OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

(C) "SLUM AREA" MEANS ANY AREA WHERE DWELLINGS PREDOMINATE WHICH, BY REASON OF DEPRECIATION, OVERCROWDING, FAULTY ARRANGEMENT OR DESIGN, LACK OF VENTILATION, LIGHT OR SANITARY FACILITIES, OR ANY COMBINATION OF THESE FACTORS, ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH OR MORALS.

(D) "BLIGHTED AREA" MEANS AN AREA IN WHICH A MAJORITY OF BUILDINGS HAVE DECLINED IN PRODUCTIVITY BY REASON OF OBSOLESCENCE, DEPRECIATION OR OTHER CAUSES TO AN EXTENT THEY NO LONGER JUSTIFY FUNDAMENTAL REPAIRS AND ADEQUATE MAINTENANCE.

(E) "URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT" MEANS UNDERTAKINGS AND ACTIVITIES OF A MUNICIPALITY IN AN URBAN RENEWAL AREA FOR THE ELIMINATION AND FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OR SPREAD OF SLUMS AND BLIGHT, AND MAY INVOLVE SLUM CLEARANCE AND REDEVELOPMENT IN AN URBAN RENEWAL AREA, OR REHABILITATION OR CONSERVATION IN AN URBAN RENEWAL AREA, OR ANY COMBINATION OR PART OF THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN URBAN RENEWAL PLAN. THESE UNDERTAKINGS AND ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE: