

Chapter 766

(House Bill 108)

AN ACT concerning

**Department of Housing and Community Development – Baltimore Regional
Neighborhood Initiative Program – Application Requirement**

FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that an application to the Department of Housing and Community Development for funds under the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program contain a local government resolution of support or letter of support; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Housing and Community Development
Section 6–502
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Housing and Community Development
Section 6–505
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Housing and Community Development

6–502.

- (a) There is a Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program.
- (b) The Department shall administer the Program.
- (c) The purpose of the Program is to:

(1) provide strategic investment in local housing and businesses to encourage healthy, sustainable communities with a growing tax base and enhanced quality of life; and

(2) focus on areas where modest investment and coordinated strategies will have an appreciable neighborhood revitalization impact.

6-505.

(a) (1) A community development organization may apply to the Department to receive Program funds for community enhancement projects.

(2) The Department shall establish the application process.

(3) The application shall contain:

(i) the neighborhood revitalization plan;

(ii) a description of each community enhancement project;

(iii) [a local government resolution of support or letter of support;

(iv)] organizational documents for the community development organization; and

[(v)] (IV) any other information the Department requires.

(b) (1) The Department, by regulation, shall establish a quantitative system to evaluate each application.

(2) The quantitative evaluation system shall evaluate each application based on:

(i) the neighborhood revitalization plan and how the plan relates to the goals outlined in the community's larger sustainable communities plan;

(ii) the description of the community conditions and the appropriateness of outlined strategies to address those conditions;

(iii) the ability of each proposed community enhancement project to address identified challenges within the community; and

(iv) the capacity and experience of the applicant and the applicant's partners to complete the proposals and leverage additional financing.

(c) The Department may give additional consideration to applications that include:

(1) opportunities that promote compact redevelopment and connect housing and job opportunities with transportation options;

(2) activities in specially designated districts that encourage residential reinvestment that reinforces the success of the businesses in the districts;

(3) community enhancement projects that encourage or incorporate elements that address environmental responsibility and stewardship into the site and project development, design, and construction;

(4) community enhancement projects that incorporate additional State and local revitalization and smart growth programs and financing tools;

(5) capital investments and business practices that incorporate inclusionary hiring practices that increase local workforce opportunities; and

(6) projects whose purpose is to identify for acquisition, acquire, develop, or promote the development of vacant or blighted properties.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or application to any application to the Department of Housing and Community Development for funds under the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program submitted before the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2018.