

CHAPTER 66

(House Bill 309)

AN ACT concerning

Department of Housing and Community Development – Disaster Relief Housing Program

FOR the purpose of establishing a Disaster Relief Housing Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development for the purpose of providing financial assistance to certain families and nonprofit entities in certain disaster areas for certain purposes; authorizing the Department to fund the Program; specifying the sources and types of funding and financial assistance the Department may provide under the Program; requiring the Secretary of Housing and Community Development to adopt certain regulations, guidelines, eligibility requirements, and income limits for the Program; requiring that repayments under the Program be paid to the source of funds used to provide the financial assistance; requiring the Department to issue certain reports to the General Assembly on or before certain dates; and generally relating to the Disaster Relief Housing Program in the Department of Housing and Community Development.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Housing and Community Development
Section 4–103
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Housing and Community Development
Section 4–1901 through ~~4–1904~~ 4–1905 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle
19. Disaster Relief Housing Program”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Volume and 2007 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

4–103.

The Division includes:

- (1) the Community Development Administration;
- (2) **THE DISASTER RELIEF HOUSING PROGRAM;**
- (3) the Down Payment and Settlement Expense Loan Program;
- [3] (4) the Elderly Rental Housing Program;
- [4] (5) federal and State weatherization programs;
- [5] (6) the Group Home Financing Program;
- [6] (7) the Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program;
- [7] (8) the Lead Hazard Reduction Loan Program;
- [8] (9) the local government infrastructure program;
- [9] (10) the Maryland Home Financing Program;
- [10] (11) the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program;
- [11] (12) the Neighborhood Housing Services Fund;
- [12] (13) the Operating Assistance Grants Demonstration Projects;
- [13] (14) the Partnership Rental Housing Program;
- [14] (15) the Radium Pilot Grant Program;
- [15] (16) the Rental Allowance Program;
- [16] (17) the Rental Housing Production Program; and
- [17] (18) the Self-Help Homeownership Technical Assistance Program.

SUBTITLE 19. DISASTER RELIEF HOUSING PROGRAM.

4-1901.

THERE IS A DISASTER RELIEF HOUSING PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

4-1902.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN A STATE OR FEDERALLY DECLARED DISASTER AREA TO REHABILITATE OR REPLACE A PRIMARY RESIDENCE TO:

(1) A FAMILY WHOSE PRIMARY RESIDENCE WAS DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY THE DISASTER; AND

(2) A NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT ASSISTS A FAMILY IN REHABILITATING AND REPLACING A PRIMARY RESIDENCE DESTROYED BY THE DISASTER.

4-1903.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM UTILIZING FUNDS FROM:

(1) ANY FUND OR PROGRAM UNDER DIVISION I OF THIS ARTICLE; OR

(2) ANY OTHER SOURCE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE ANY TYPE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PERMITTED BY DIVISION I OF THIS ARTICLE TO RECIPIENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM.

(C) IN ADDITION TO THE TYPE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER A BUY-DOWN PROGRAM THAT REDUCES THE AMOUNT A BORROWER PAYS ON A LOAN OBTAINED FROM THE PRIVATE MARKET OR FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR A DEFINED PERIOD OF TIME.

4-1904.

(A) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM.

(2) THE GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS MAY BE DIFFERENT FOR EACH DISASTER.

(B) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH INCOME LIMITS FOR THE PROGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH EACH DISASTER.

(C) **THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF ANY STATE FUND OR PROGRAM FROM WHICH FUNDS ARE UTILIZED FOR PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING MAXIMUM INCOME LIMITS, MAY NOT APPLY TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO RECIPIENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM.**

(D) **REPAYMENTS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL BE PAID TO THE SOURCE OF FUNDS THAT WAS USED TO PROVIDE THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

4-1905.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE:

(1) A PRELIMINARY REPORT 6 MONTHS AFTER THE PROGRAM IS INITIALLY ACTIVATED FOR EACH DISASTER; AND

(2) A FINAL REPORT ON OR BEFORE 18 MONTHS AFTER THE PROGRAM IS INITIALLY ACTIVATED FOR EACH DISASTER.

(B) THE REPORTS SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED;

(2) THE COUNTIES IN WHICH THE ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED;

AND

(3) THE NAMES OF ANY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDED ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Housing and Community Development shall issue to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, a preliminary report 6 months after the Program is utilized for a disaster and a final report on or before 18 months after the Program is utilized for a disaster. The reports shall include:~~

~~(1) the amount and type of assistance provided;~~

~~(2) the counties where the assistance was provided; and~~

~~(3) the names of any financial institutions that provided assistance under the Program.~~

~~SECTION 3.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2008.