

HOUSE BILL 528

L3

2lr1743

By: **Delegate McKay**

Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Town of Williamsport (Washington County) – Urban Renewal Authority for**
3 **Blight Clearance**

4 FOR the purpose of granting the Town of Williamsport in Washington County the authority
5 to exercise urban renewal powers in areas zoned for commercial use for blight
6 clearance and redevelopment under Article III, Section 61 of the Maryland
7 Constitution; authorizing the municipality to levy certain taxes and issue general
8 obligation bonds and revenue bonds to carry out urban renewal powers; and
9 generally relating to urban renewal authority for blight clearance for the Town of
10 Williamsport in Washington County.

11 BY adding to

12 Chapter 153 – Charter of the Town of Williamsport
13 Section A1–101 through A1–114 to be under the new heading “Appendix I – Urban
14 Renewal Authority for Blight Clearance”
15 Public Local Laws of Maryland – Compilation of Municipal Charters
16 (2008 Replacement Edition, Revisions Current as of November 2009)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Public Local Laws of Maryland – Compilation of Municipal Charters read as
19 follows:

20 **Chapter 153 – Charter of the Town of Williamsport**

21 **APPENDIX I – URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY FOR BLIGHT CLEARANCE**

22 **A1–101. DEFINITIONS.**

23 **(A) IN THIS APPENDIX THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
24 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (B) "BLIGHTED AREA" MEANS AN AREA OR SINGLE PROPERTY IN WHICH
2 THE BUILDING OR BUILDINGS HAVE DECLINED IN PRODUCTIVITY BY REASON OF
3 OBSOLESCENCE, DEPRECIATION, OR OTHER CAUSES TO AN EXTENT THAT THEY NO
4 LONGER JUSTIFY FUNDAMENTAL REPAIRS AND ADEQUATE MAINTENANCE.

5 (C) "BONDS" MEANS ANY BONDS (INCLUDING REFUNDING BONDS), NOTES,
6 INTERIM CERTIFICATES, CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS, DEBENTURES, OR
7 OTHER OBLIGATIONS.

8 (D) "FEDERAL GOVERNMENT" MEANS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OR
9 ANY AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY, CORPORATE OR OTHERWISE, OF THE UNITED
10 STATES OF AMERICA.

11 (E) "MUNICIPALITY" MEANS THE TOWN OF WILLIAMSPORT, MARYLAND.

12 (F) "PERSON" MEANS ANY INDIVIDUAL, FIRM, PARTNERSHIP,
13 CORPORATION, COMPANY, ASSOCIATION, JOINT STOCK ASSOCIATION, OR BODY
14 POLITIC. IT INCLUDES ANY TRUSTEE, RECEIVER, ASSIGNEE, OR OTHER PERSON
15 ACTING IN SIMILAR REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY.

16 (G) "URBAN RENEWAL AREA" MEANS A BLIGHTED AREA WHICH THE
17 MUNICIPALITY DESIGNATES AS APPROPRIATE FOR AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT.

18 (H) "URBAN RENEWAL PLAN" MEANS A PLAN, AS IT EXISTS FROM TIME TO
19 TIME, FOR AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT. THE PLAN SHALL BE SUFFICIENTLY
20 COMPLETE TO INDICATE ANY LAND ACQUISITION, DEMOLITION, AND REMOVAL OF
21 STRUCTURES, REDEVELOPMENT, IMPROVEMENTS, AND REHABILITATION AS MAY BE
22 PROPOSED TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE URBAN RENEWAL AREA, ZONING AND
23 PLANNING CHANGES, IF ANY, LAND USES, MAXIMUM DENSITY, AND BUILDING
24 REQUIREMENTS.

25 (I) "URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT" MEANS UNDERTAKINGS AND ACTIVITIES
26 OF A MUNICIPALITY IN AN URBAN RENEWAL AREA FOR THE ELIMINATION AND FOR
27 THE PREVENTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OR SPREAD OF BLIGHT, AND MAY INVOLVE
28 CLEARANCE AND REDEVELOPMENT IN AN URBAN RENEWAL AREA, OR
29 REHABILITATION OR CONSERVATION IN AN URBAN RENEWAL AREA, OR ANY
30 COMBINATION OR PART OF THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN URBAN RENEWAL PLAN.
31 THESE UNDERTAKINGS AND ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE:

32 (1) ACQUISITION OF A BLIGHTED AREA OR PORTION OF THE
33 BLIGHTED AREA;

1 **(2) DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS;**

2 **(3) INSTALLATION, CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION OF**
3 **STREETS, UTILITIES, PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS**
4 **NECESSARY FOR CARRYING OUT THE URBAN RENEWAL OBJECTIVES OF THIS**
5 **APPENDIX IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN;**

6 **(4) DISPOSITION OF ANY PROPERTY ACQUIRED IN THE URBAN**
7 **RENEWAL AREA, INCLUDING SALE, INITIAL LEASING, OR RETENTION BY THE**
8 **MUNICIPALITY ITSELF, AT ITS FAIR VALUE FOR USES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**
9 **URBAN RENEWAL PLAN;**

10 **(5) CARRYING OUT PLANS FOR A PROGRAM OF VOLUNTARY OR**
11 **COMPULSORY REPAIR AND REHABILITATION OF BUILDINGS OR OTHER**
12 **IMPROVEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN;**

13 **(6) ACQUISITION OF ANY OTHER REAL PROPERTY IN THE URBAN**
14 **RENEWAL AREA WHERE NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE UNHEALTHFUL, UNSANITARY,**
15 **OR UNSAFE CONDITIONS, LESSEN DENSITY, ELIMINATE OBSOLETE OR OTHER USES**
16 **DETRIMENTAL TO THE PUBLIC WELFARE, OR OTHERWISE TO REMOVE OR PREVENT**
17 **THE SPREAD OF BLIGHT OR DETERIORATION, OR TO PROVIDE LAND FOR NEEDED**
18 **PUBLIC FACILITIES; AND**

19 **(7) THE PRESERVATION, IMPROVEMENT, OR EMBELLISHMENT OF**
20 **HISTORIC STRUCTURES OR MONUMENTS.**

21 **A1-102. POWERS.**

22 **(A) THE MUNICIPALITY MAY UNDERTAKE AND CARRY OUT URBAN RENEWAL**
23 **PROJECTS IN AREAS OF THE MUNICIPALITY THAT ARE ZONED FOR COMMERCIAL**
24 **USE.**

25 **(B) THESE PROJECTS SHALL BE LIMITED:**

26 **(1) TO BLIGHT CLEARANCE IN BLIGHTED AREAS AND**
27 **REDEVELOPMENT OR THE REHABILITATION OF BLIGHTED AREAS;**

28 **(2) TO ACQUIRE IN CONNECTION WITH THOSE PROJECTS, WITHIN**
29 **THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE MUNICIPALITY, LAND AND PROPERTY OF EVERY**
30 **KIND AND ANY RIGHT, INTEREST, FRANCHISE, EASEMENT, OR PRIVILEGE,**
31 **INCLUDING LAND OR PROPERTY AND ANY RIGHT OR INTEREST ALREADY DEVOTED**
32 **TO PUBLIC USE, BY PURCHASE, LEASE, GIFT, CONDEMNATION, OR ANY OTHER LEGAL**
33 **MEANS; AND**

1 **(3) TO SELL, LEASE, CONVEY, TRANSFER, OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF**
2 **ANY OF THE LAND OR PROPERTY, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT IT HAS BEEN**
3 **DEVELOPED, REDEVELOPED, ALTERED, OR IMPROVED AND IRRESPECTIVE OF THE**
4 **MANNER OR MEANS IN OR BY WHICH IT MAY HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED, TO ANY PRIVATE,**
5 **PUBLIC, OR QUASI-PUBLIC CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP, ASSOCIATION, PERSON,**
6 **OR OTHER LEGAL ENTITY.**

7 **(C) LAND OR PROPERTY TAKEN BY THE MUNICIPALITY FOR ANY OF THESE**
8 **PURPOSES OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXERCISE OF ANY OF THE POWERS WHICH**
9 **ARE GRANTED BY THIS APPENDIX TO THE MUNICIPALITY BY EXERCISING THE**
10 **POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN MAY NOT BE TAKEN WITHOUT JUST COMPENSATION,**
11 **AS AGREED ON BETWEEN THE PARTIES, OR AWARDED BY A JURY, BEING FIRST PAID**
12 **OR TENDERED TO THE PARTY ENTITLED TO THE COMPENSATION.**

13 **(D) ALL LAND OR PROPERTY NEEDED OR TAKEN BY THE EXERCISE OF THE**
14 **POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN BY THE MUNICIPALITY FOR ANY OF THESE PURPOSES**
15 **OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXERCISE OF ANY OF THE POWERS GRANTED BY THIS**
16 **APPENDIX IS DECLARED TO BE NEEDED OR TAKEN FOR PUBLIC USES AND**
17 **PURPOSES.**

18 **(E) ANY OR ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO THIS**
19 **APPENDIX CONSTITUTE GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS UNDERTAKEN FOR PUBLIC**
20 **USES AND PURPOSES AND THE POWER OF TAXATION MAY BE EXERCISED, PUBLIC**
21 **FUNDS EXPENDED, AND PUBLIC CREDIT EXTENDED IN FURTHERANCE OF THEM.**

22 **A1-103. ADDITIONAL POWERS.**

23 **THE MUNICIPALITY HAS THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POWERS. THESE**
24 **POWERS ARE DECLARED TO BE NECESSARY AND PROPER TO CARRY INTO FULL**
25 **FORCE AND EFFECT THE SPECIFIC POWERS GRANTED IN THIS APPENDIX AND TO**
26 **FULLY ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES AND OBJECTS CONTEMPLATED BY THE**
27 **PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION:**

28 **(1) TO MAKE OR HAVE MADE ALL SURVEYS AND PLANS NECESSARY TO**
29 **THE CARRYING OUT OF THE PURPOSES OF THIS APPENDIX AND TO ADOPT OR**
30 **APPROVE, MODIFY, AND AMEND THOSE PLANS. THESE PLANS MAY INCLUDE, BUT**
31 **ARE NOT LIMITED TO:**

32 **(I) PLANS FOR CARRYING OUT A PROGRAM OF VOLUNTARY OR**
33 **COMPULSORY REPAIR AND REHABILITATION OF BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS;**

34 **(II) PLANS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF CODES AND**

1 REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE USE OF LAND AND THE USE AND OCCUPANCY OF
2 BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS AND TO THE COMPULSORY REPAIR,
3 REHABILITATION, DEMOLITION, OR REMOVAL OF BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS;
4 AND

5 (III) APPRAISALS, TITLE SEARCHES, SURVEYS, STUDIES, AND
6 OTHER PLANS AND WORK NECESSARY TO PREPARE FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF
7 URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES, AND TO APPLY FOR,
8 ACCEPT, AND UTILIZE GRANTS OF FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR ANY
9 OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY FOR THOSE PURPOSES;

10 (2) TO PREPARE PLANS FOR THE RELOCATION OF PERSONS
11 (INCLUDING FAMILIES, BUSINESS CONCERNS, AND OTHERS) DISPLACED FROM AN
12 URBAN RENEWAL AREA, AND TO MAKE RELOCATION PAYMENTS TO OR WITH
13 RESPECT TO THOSE PERSONS FOR MOVING EXPENSES AND LOSSES OF PROPERTY
14 FOR WHICH REIMBURSEMENT OR COMPENSATION IS NOT OTHERWISE MADE,
15 INCLUDING THE MAKING OF PAYMENTS FINANCED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT;

16 (3) TO APPROPRIATE WHATEVER FUNDS AND MAKE WHATEVER
17 EXPENDITURES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS
18 APPENDIX, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED:

19 (I) TO THE PAYMENT OF ANY AND ALL COSTS AND EXPENSES
20 INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH, OR INCIDENTAL TO, THE ACQUISITION OF LAND
21 OR PROPERTY, AND FOR THE DEMOLITION, REMOVAL, RELOCATION, RENOVATION,
22 OR ALTERATION OF LAND, BUILDINGS, STREETS, HIGHWAYS, ALLEYS, UTILITIES, OR
23 SERVICES, AND OTHER STRUCTURES OR IMPROVEMENTS, AND FOR THE
24 CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, RELOCATION, OR REPAIR OF
25 STREETS, HIGHWAYS, ALLEYS, UTILITIES, OR SERVICES, IN CONNECTION WITH
26 URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS;

27 (II) TO LEVY TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS FOR THOSE PURPOSES;

28 (III) TO BORROW MONEY AND TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT
29 ADVANCES, LOANS, GRANTS, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND ANY OTHER FORM OF FINANCIAL
30 ASSISTANCE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE STATE, COUNTY, OR OTHER
31 PUBLIC BODIES, OR FROM ANY SOURCES, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, FOR THE PURPOSES
32 OF THIS APPENDIX, AND TO GIVE WHATEVER SECURITY AS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR
33 THIS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE; AND

34 (IV) TO INVEST ANY URBAN RENEWAL FUNDS HELD IN RESERVES
35 OR SINKING FUNDS OR ANY OF THESE FUNDS NOT REQUIRED FOR IMMEDIATE
36 DISBURSEMENT IN PROPERTY OR SECURITIES WHICH ARE LEGAL INVESTMENTS FOR

1 **OTHER MUNICIPAL FUNDS;**

2 **(4) (I) TO HOLD, IMPROVE, CLEAR, OR PREPARE FOR**
3 **REDEVELOPMENT ANY PROPERTY ACQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH URBAN**
4 **RENEWAL PROJECTS;**

5 **(II) TO MORTGAGE, PLEDGE, HYPOTHECATE, OR OTHERWISE**
6 **ENCUMBER THAT PROPERTY; AND**

7 **(III) TO INSURE OR PROVIDE FOR THE INSURANCE OF THE**
8 **PROPERTY OR OPERATIONS OF THE MUNICIPALITY AGAINST ANY RISKS OR**
9 **HAZARDS, INCLUDING THE POWER TO PAY PREMIUMS ON ANY INSURANCE;**

10 **(5) TO MAKE AND EXECUTE ALL CONTRACTS AND OTHER**
11 **INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT TO THE EXERCISE OF ITS POWERS**
12 **UNDER THIS APPENDIX, INCLUDING THE POWER TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH**
13 **OTHER PUBLIC BODIES OR AGENCIES (THESE AGREEMENTS MAY EXTEND OVER ANY**
14 **PERIOD, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OR RULE OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY),**
15 **AND TO INCLUDE IN ANY CONTRACT FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE**
16 **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR OR WITH RESPECT TO AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT**
17 **AND RELATED ACTIVITIES ANY CONDITIONS IMPOSED PURSUANT TO FEDERAL LAWS**
18 **AS THE MUNICIPALITY CONSIDERS REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE;**

19 **(6) TO ENTER INTO ANY BUILDING OR PROPERTY IN ANY URBAN**
20 **RENEWAL AREA IN ORDER TO MAKE INSPECTIONS, SURVEYS, APPRAISALS,**
21 **SOUNDINGS, OR TEST BORINGS, AND TO OBTAIN AN ORDER FOR THIS PURPOSE FROM**
22 **THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY IS SITUATED IN**
23 **THE EVENT ENTRY IS DENIED OR RESISTED;**

24 **(7) TO PLAN, REPLAN, INSTALL, CONSTRUCT, RECONSTRUCT,**
25 **REPAIR, CLOSE, OR VACATE STREETS, ROADS, SIDEWALKS, PUBLIC UTILITIES,**
26 **PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, AND OTHER PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH**
27 **AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT AND TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS FROM BUILDING**
28 **REGULATIONS;**

29 **(8) TO GENERALLY ORGANIZE, COORDINATE, AND DIRECT THE**
30 **ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS APPENDIX AS THEY APPLY TO THE**
31 **MUNICIPALITY IN ORDER THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF REMEDYING BLIGHTED AREAS**
32 **AND PREVENTING ITS CAUSES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY MAY BE PROMOTED AND**
33 **ACHIEVED MOST EFFECTIVELY; AND**

34 **(9) TO EXERCISE ALL OR ANY PART OR COMBINATION OF THE**
35 **POWERS GRANTED IN THIS APPENDIX.**

1 **A1-104. ESTABLISHMENT OF URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY.**

2 (A) A MUNICIPALITY MAY ITSELF EXERCISE ALL THE POWERS GRANTED BY
3 THIS APPENDIX, OR MAY, IF ITS LEGISLATIVE BODY BY ORDINANCE DETERMINES
4 THE ACTION TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, ELECT TO HAVE THE POWERS
5 EXERCISED BY A SEPARATE PUBLIC BODY OR AGENCY.

6 (B) IN THE EVENT THE LEGISLATIVE BODY MAKES THAT DETERMINATION,
7 IT SHALL PROCEED BY ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC BODY OR AGENCY TO
8 UNDERTAKE IN THE MUNICIPALITY THE ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED BY THIS
9 APPENDIX.

10 (C) THE ORDINANCE SHALL INCLUDE PROVISIONS ESTABLISHING THE
11 NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR AGENCY, THE MANNER OF THEIR
12 APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL, AND THE TERMS OF THE MEMBERS AND THEIR
13 COMPENSATION.

14 (D) THE ORDINANCE MAY INCLUDE WHATEVER ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS
15 RELATING TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR AGENCY AS MAY BE
16 NECESSARY.

17 (E) IN THE EVENT THE LEGISLATIVE BODY ENACTS THIS ORDINANCE, ALL
18 OF THE POWERS BY THIS APPENDIX GRANTED TO THE MUNICIPALITY, FROM THE
19 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDINANCE, ARE VESTED IN THE PUBLIC BODY OR AGENCY
20 ESTABLISHED BY THE ORDINANCE.

21 **A1-105. POWERS WITHHELD FROM THE AGENCY.**

22 THE AGENCY MAY NOT:

23 (1) PASS A RESOLUTION TO INITIATE AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT
24 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS A1-102 AND A1-103 OF THIS APPENDIX;

25 (2) ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS PURSUANT TO SECTION
26 A1-111 OF THIS APPENDIX; OR

27 (3) APPROPRIATE FUNDS OR LEVY TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS
28 PURSUANT TO SECTION A1-103(3) OF THIS APPENDIX.

29 **A1-106. INITIATION OF PROJECT.**

30 IN ORDER TO INITIATE AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT, THE LEGISLATIVE

1 BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL ADOPT A RESOLUTION WHICH:

2 (1) FINDS THAT ONE OR MORE BLIGHTED AREAS EXIST IN THE
3 MUNICIPALITY;

4 (2) LOCATES AND DEFINES THE BLIGHTED AREA; AND

5 (3) FINDS THAT THE REHABILITATION, REDEVELOPMENT, OR A
6 COMBINATION OF THEM, OF THE AREA OR AREAS, IS NECESSARY AND IN THE
7 INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, MORALS, OR WELFARE OF THE
8 RESIDENTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

9 **A1-107. PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF PLAN FOR URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT.**

10 (A) IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS APPENDIX, THE
11 MUNICIPALITY SHALL HAVE PREPARED AN URBAN RENEWAL PLAN FOR BLIGHTED
12 AREAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY AND SHALL APPROVE THE PLAN FORMALLY. THE
13 MUNICIPALITY SHALL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT
14 AFTER PUBLIC NOTICE OF IT BY PUBLICATION IN A NEWSPAPER HAVING A GENERAL
15 CIRCULATION WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE MUNICIPALITY. THE NOTICE
16 SHALL DESCRIBE THE TIME, DATE, PLACE, AND PURPOSE OF THE HEARING, SHALL
17 GENERALLY IDENTIFY THE URBAN RENEWAL AREA COVERED BY THE PLAN, AND
18 SHALL OUTLINE THE GENERAL SCOPE OF THE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT UNDER
19 CONSIDERATION. FOLLOWING THE HEARING, THE MUNICIPALITY MAY APPROVE AN
20 URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT AND THE PLAN THEREFOR IF IT FINDS THAT:

21 (1) A FEASIBLE METHOD EXISTS FOR THE LOCATION OF ANY
22 FAMILIES OR NATURAL PERSONS WHO WILL BE DISPLACED FROM THE URBAN
23 RENEWAL AREA IN DECENT, SAFE, AND SANITARY DWELLING ACCOMMODATIONS
24 WITHIN THEIR MEANS AND WITHOUT UNDUE HARDSHIP TO THE FAMILIES OR
25 NATURAL PERSONS;

26 (2) THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN CONFORMS SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE
27 MASTER PLAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY AS A WHOLE; AND

28 (3) THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN WILL AFFORD MAXIMUM
29 OPPORTUNITY, CONSISTENT WITH THE SOUND NEEDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY AS A
30 WHOLE, FOR THE REHABILITATION OR REDEVELOPMENT OF THE URBAN RENEWAL
31 AREA BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

32 (B) AN URBAN RENEWAL PLAN MAY BE MODIFIED AT ANY TIME. IF
33 MODIFIED AFTER THE LEASE OR SALE OF REAL PROPERTY IN THE URBAN RENEWAL
34 PROJECT AREA, THE MODIFICATION MAY BE CONDITIONED ON WHATEVER

1 APPROVAL OF THE OWNER, LESSEE, OR SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST AS THE
2 MUNICIPALITY CONSIDERS ADVISABLE. IN ANY EVENT, IT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO
3 WHATEVER RIGHTS AT LAW OR IN EQUITY AS A LESSEE OR PURCHASER, OR THE
4 SUCCESSOR OR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, MAY BE ENTITLED TO ASSERT. WHERE
5 THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION WILL CHANGE SUBSTANTIALLY THE URBAN
6 RENEWAL PLAN AS APPROVED PREVIOUSLY BY THE MUNICIPALITY, THE
7 MODIFICATION SHALL BE APPROVED FORMALLY BY THE MUNICIPALITY, AS IN THE
8 CASE OF AN ORIGINAL PLAN.

9 (C) ON THE APPROVAL BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF AN URBAN RENEWAL PLAN
10 OR OF ANY MODIFICATION OF IT, THE PLAN OR MODIFICATION SHALL BE
11 CONSIDERED TO BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT FOR THE RESPECTIVE URBAN
12 RENEWAL AREA. THE MUNICIPALITY MAY HAVE THE PLAN OR MODIFICATION
13 CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS.

14 **A1-108. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY IN URBAN RENEWAL AREA.**

15 (A) THE MUNICIPALITY, BY ORDINANCE, MAY SELL, LEASE, OR OTHERWISE
16 TRANSFER REAL PROPERTY OR ANY INTEREST IN IT ACQUIRED BY IT FOR AN URBAN
17 RENEWAL PROJECT TO ANY PERSON FOR RESIDENTIAL, RECREATIONAL,
18 COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, EDUCATIONAL, OR OTHER USES OR FOR PUBLIC USE, OR
19 IT MAY RETAIN THE PROPERTY OR INTEREST FOR PUBLIC USE, IN ACCORDANCE
20 WITH THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN AND SUBJECT TO WHATEVER COVENANTS,
21 CONDITIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS, INCLUDING COVENANTS RUNNING WITH THE
22 LAND, AS IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE TO ASSIST IN PREVENTING THE
23 DEVELOPMENT OR SPREAD OF FUTURE BLIGHTED AREAS OR TO OTHERWISE CARRY
24 OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS APPENDIX. THE PURCHASERS OR LESSEES AND THEIR
25 SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS SHALL BE OBLIGATED TO DEVOTE THE REAL PROPERTY
26 ONLY TO THE USES SPECIFIED IN THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN AND MAY BE
27 OBLIGATED TO COMPLY WITH WHATEVER OTHER REQUIREMENTS THE
28 MUNICIPALITY DETERMINES TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, INCLUDING THE
29 OBLIGATION TO BEGIN WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME ANY IMPROVEMENTS ON THE
30 REAL PROPERTY REQUIRED BY THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN. THE REAL PROPERTY
31 OR INTEREST MAY NOT BE SOLD, LEASED, OTHERWISE TRANSFERRED, OR RETAINED
32 AT LESS THAN ITS FAIR VALUE FOR USES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE URBAN
33 RENEWAL PLAN. IN DETERMINING THE FAIR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR USES
34 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN, THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL TAKE
35 INTO ACCOUNT AND GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE USES PROVIDED IN THE PLAN,
36 THE RESTRICTIONS ON, AND THE COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, AND OBLIGATIONS
37 ASSUMED BY THE PURCHASER OR LESSEE OR BY THE MUNICIPALITY RETAINING THE
38 PROPERTY, AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE
39 RECURRENCE OF BLIGHTED AREAS. IN ANY INSTRUMENT OR CONVEYANCE TO A
40 PRIVATE PURCHASER OR LESSEE, THE MUNICIPALITY MAY PROVIDE THAT THE

1 PURCHASER OR LESSEE MAY NOT SELL, LEASE, OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER THE REAL
2 PROPERTY WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY UNTIL
3 THE PURCHASER OR LESSEE HAS COMPLETED THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANY OR ALL
4 IMPROVEMENTS WHICH THE PURCHASER OR LESSEE HAS BEEN OBLIGATED TO
5 CONSTRUCT ON THE PROPERTY. REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE MUNICIPALITY
6 WHICH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN, IS
7 TO BE TRANSFERRED, SHALL BE TRANSFERRED AS RAPIDLY AS FEASIBLE IN THE
8 PUBLIC INTEREST CONSISTENT WITH THE CARRYING OUT OF THE PROVISIONS OF
9 THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN. ANY CONTRACT FOR THE TRANSFER AND THE URBAN
10 RENEWAL PLAN (OR ANY PART OR PARTS OF THE CONTRACT OR PLAN AS THE
11 MUNICIPALITY DETERMINES) MAY BE RECORDED IN THE LAND RECORDS OF THE
12 COUNTY IN WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY IS SITUATED IN A MANNER SO AS TO AFFORD
13 ACTUAL OR CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE OF IT.

14 (B) THE MUNICIPALITY, BY ORDINANCE, MAY DISPOSE OF REAL PROPERTY
15 IN AN URBAN RENEWAL AREA TO PRIVATE PERSONS. THE MUNICIPALITY MAY, BY
16 PUBLIC NOTICE BY PUBLICATION IN A NEWSPAPER HAVING A GENERAL
17 CIRCULATION IN THE COMMUNITY, INVITE PROPOSALS FROM AND MAKE AVAILABLE
18 ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION TO PRIVATE REDEVELOPERS OR ANY PERSONS
19 INTERESTED IN UNDERTAKING TO REDEVELOP OR REHABILITATE AN URBAN
20 RENEWAL AREA, OR ANY PART THEREOF. THE NOTICE SHALL IDENTIFY THE AREA,
21 OR PORTION THEREOF, AND SHALL STATE THAT PROPOSALS SHALL BE MADE BY
22 THOSE INTERESTED WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD. THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL
23 CONSIDER ALL REDEVELOPMENT OR REHABILITATION PROPOSALS AND THE
24 FINANCIAL AND LEGAL ABILITY OF THE PERSONS MAKING PROPOSALS TO CARRY
25 THEM OUT, AND MAY NEGOTIATE WITH ANY PERSONS FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE
26 PURCHASE, LEASE, OR OTHER TRANSFER OF ANY REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY
27 THE MUNICIPALITY IN THE URBAN RENEWAL AREA. THE MUNICIPALITY MAY ACCEPT
28 ANY PROPOSAL AS IT DEEMS TO BE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND IN FURTHERANCE
29 OF THE PURPOSES OF THIS APPENDIX. THEREAFTER, THE MUNICIPALITY MAY
30 EXECUTE AND DELIVER CONTRACTS, DEEDS, LEASES, AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS
31 AND TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE TRANSFERS.

32 (C) THE MUNICIPALITY MAY OPERATE TEMPORARILY AND MAINTAIN REAL
33 PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY IT IN AN URBAN RENEWAL AREA FOR OR IN CONNECTION
34 WITH AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT PENDING THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROPERTY
35 AS AUTHORIZED IN THIS APPENDIX, WITHOUT REGARD TO THE PROVISIONS OF
36 SUBSECTION (A), FOR USES AND PURPOSES CONSIDERED DESIRABLE EVEN THOUGH
37 NOT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE URBAN RENEWAL PLAN.

38 (D) ANY INSTRUMENT EXECUTED BY THE MUNICIPALITY AND PURPORTING
39 TO CONVEY ANY RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST IN ANY PROPERTY UNDER THIS
40 APPENDIX SHALL BE PRESUMED CONCLUSIVELY TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED IN

1 COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS APPENDIX INsofar AS TITLE OR
2 OTHER INTEREST OF ANY BONA FIDE PURCHASERS, LESSEES, OR TRANSFEREES OF
3 THE PROPERTY IS CONCERNED.

4 **A1-109. EMINENT DOMAIN.**

5 CONDEMNATION OF LAND OR PROPERTY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS
6 APPENDIX SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURE PROVIDED IN THE
7 REAL PROPERTY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

8 **A1-110. ENCOURAGEMENT OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.**

9 THE MUNICIPALITY, TO THE EXTENT IT DETERMINES TO BE FEASIBLE IN
10 CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS APPENDIX, SHALL AFFORD MAXIMUM
11 OPPORTUNITY TO THE REHABILITATION OR REDEVELOPMENT OF ANY URBAN
12 RENEWAL AREA BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CONSISTENT WITH THE SOUND NEEDS OF
13 THE MUNICIPALITY AS A WHOLE. THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL GIVE CONSIDERATION
14 TO THIS OBJECTIVE IN EXERCISING ITS POWERS UNDER THIS APPENDIX.

15 **A1-111. GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS.**

16 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING AND CARRYING OUT AN URBAN RENEWAL
17 PROJECT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES, THE MUNICIPALITY MAY ISSUE AND SELL ITS
18 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS. ANY BONDS ISSUED BY THE MUNICIPALITY
19 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE ISSUED IN THE MANNER AND WITHIN THE
20 LIMITATIONS PRESCRIBED BY APPLICABLE LAW FOR THE ISSUANCE AND
21 AUTHORIZATION OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS BY THE MUNICIPALITY, AND
22 ALSO WITHIN LIMITATIONS DETERMINED BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

23 **A1-112. REVENUE BONDS.**

24 (A) IN ADDITION TO THE AUTHORITY CONFERRED BY SECTION A1-111 OF
25 THIS APPENDIX, THE MUNICIPALITY MAY ISSUE REVENUE BONDS TO FINANCE THE
26 UNDERTAKING OF ANY URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES. ALSO,
27 IT MAY ISSUE REFUNDING BONDS FOR THE PAYMENT OR RETIREMENT OF THE
28 BONDS ISSUED PREVIOUSLY BY IT. THE BONDS SHALL BE MADE PAYABLE, AS TO
29 BOTH PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST, SOLELY FROM THE INCOME, PROCEEDS,
30 REVENUES, AND FUNDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY DERIVED FROM OR HELD IN
31 CONNECTION WITH THE UNDERTAKING AND CARRYING OUT OF URBAN RENEWAL
32 PROJECTS UNDER THIS APPENDIX. HOWEVER, PAYMENT OF THE BONDS, BOTH AS
33 TO PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST, MAY BE FURTHER SECURED BY A PLEDGE OF ANY
34 LOAN, GRANT, OR CONTRIBUTION FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR OTHER
35 SOURCE, IN AID OF ANY URBAN RENEWAL PROJECTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY UNDER

1 THIS APPENDIX, AND BY A MORTGAGE OF ANY URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT, OR ANY
2 PART OF A PROJECT, TITLE TO WHICH IS IN THE MUNICIPALITY. IN ADDITION, THE
3 MUNICIPALITY MAY ENTER INTO AN INDENTURE OF TRUST WITH ANY PRIVATE
4 BANKING INSTITUTION OF THIS STATE HAVING TRUST POWERS AND MAY MAKE IN
5 THE INDENTURE OF TRUST COVENANTS AND COMMITMENTS REQUIRED BY ANY
6 PURCHASER FOR THE ADEQUATE SECURITY OF THE BONDS.

7 (B) BONDS ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN
8 INDEBTEDNESS WITHIN THE MEANING OF ANY CONSTITUTIONAL OR STATUTORY
9 DEBT LIMITATION OR RESTRICTION, ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ANY
10 OTHER LAW OR CHARTER RELATING TO THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE, OR SALE
11 OF BONDS, AND ARE EXEMPTED SPECIFICALLY FROM THE RESTRICTIONS
12 CONTAINED IN §§ 19-205 AND 19-206 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF
13 THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND. BONDS ISSUED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF
14 THIS APPENDIX ARE DECLARED TO BE ISSUED FOR AN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC AND
15 GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSE AND, TOGETHER WITH INTEREST ON THEM AND INCOME
16 FROM THEM, ARE EXEMPT FROM ALL TAXES.

17 (C) BONDS ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE AUTHORIZED BY
18 RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY.
19 THEY MAY BE ISSUED IN ONE OR MORE SERIES AND SHALL:

- 20 (1) BEAR A DATE OR DATES;
- 21 (2) MATURE AT A TIME OR TIMES;
- 22 (3) BEAR INTEREST AT A RATE OR RATES;
- 23 (4) BE IN A DENOMINATION OR DENOMINATIONS;
- 24 (5) BE IN A FORM EITHER WITH OR WITHOUT COUPON OR
25 REGISTERED;
- 26 (6) CARRY A CONVERSION OR REGISTRATION PRIVILEGE;
- 27 (7) HAVE A RANK OR PRIORITY;
- 28 (8) BE EXECUTED IN A MANNER;
- 29 (9) BE PAYABLE IN A MEDIUM OF PAYMENT, AT A PLACE OR PLACES,
30 AND BE SUBJECT TO TERMS OF REDEMPTION (WITH OR WITHOUT PREMIUM);
- 31 (10) BE SECURED IN A MANNER; AND

1 **(11) HAVE OTHER CHARACTERISTICS, AS ARE PROVIDED BY THE**
2 **RESOLUTION, TRUST INDENTURE, OR MORTGAGE ISSUED PURSUANT TO IT.**

3 **(D) THESE BONDS MAY NOT BE SOLD AT LESS THAN PAR VALUE AT PUBLIC**
4 **SALES WHICH ARE HELD AFTER NOTICE IS PUBLISHED PRIOR TO THE SALE IN A**
5 **NEWSPAPER HAVING A GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE AREA IN WHICH THE**
6 **MUNICIPALITY IS LOCATED AND IN WHATEVER OTHER MEDIUM OF PUBLICATION AS**
7 **THE MUNICIPALITY MAY DETERMINE. THE BONDS MAY BE EXCHANGED ALSO FOR**
8 **OTHER BONDS ON THE BASIS OF PAR. HOWEVER, THE BONDS MAY NOT BE SOLD TO**
9 **THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AT PRIVATE SALE AT LESS THAN PAR, AND, IN THE**
10 **EVENT LESS THAN ALL OF THE AUTHORIZED PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF THE BONDS IS**
11 **SOLD TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE BALANCE MAY NOT BE SOLD AT PRIVATE**
12 **SALE AT LESS THAN PAR AT AN INTEREST COST TO THE MUNICIPALITY WHICH DOES**
13 **NOT EXCEED THE INTEREST COST TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE PORTION OF THE**
14 **BONDS SOLD TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**

15 **(E) IN CASE ANY OF THE PUBLIC OFFICIALS OF THE MUNICIPALITY WHOSE**
16 **SIGNATURES APPEAR ON ANY BONDS OR COUPONS ISSUED UNDER THIS APPENDIX**
17 **CEASE TO BE OFFICIALS OF THE MUNICIPALITY BEFORE THE DELIVERY OF THE**
18 **BONDS OR IN THE EVENT ANY OF THE OFFICIALS HAVE BECOME SUCH AFTER THE**
19 **DATE OF ISSUE OF THEM, THE BONDS ARE VALID AND BINDING OBLIGATIONS OF THE**
20 **MUNICIPALITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR TERMS. ANY PROVISION OF ANY LAW**
21 **TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING, ANY BONDS ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS**
22 **APPENDIX ARE FULLY NEGOTIABLE.**

23 **(F) IN ANY SUIT, ACTION, OR PROCEEDING INVOLVING THE VALIDITY OR**
24 **ENFORCEABILITY OF ANY BOND ISSUED UNDER THIS APPENDIX, OR THE SECURITY**
25 **FOR IT, ANY BOND WHICH RECITES IN SUBSTANCE THAT IT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE**
26 **MUNICIPALITY IN CONNECTION WITH AN URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT SHALL BE**
27 **CONSIDERED CONCLUSIVELY TO HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND THE**
28 **PROJECT SHALL BE CONSIDERED CONCLUSIVELY TO HAVE BEEN PLANNED,**
29 **LOCATED, AND CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS**
30 **APPENDIX.**

31 **(G) ALL BANKS, TRUST COMPANIES, BANKERS, SAVINGS BANKS, AND**
32 **INSTITUTIONS, BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS, SAVINGS AND LOAN**
33 **ASSOCIATIONS, INVESTMENT COMPANIES, AND OTHER PERSONS CARRYING ON A**
34 **BANKING OR INVESTMENT BUSINESS; ALL INSURANCE COMPANIES, INSURANCE**
35 **ASSOCIATIONS, AND OTHER PERSONS CARRYING ON AN INSURANCE BUSINESS; AND**
36 **ALL EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, CURATORS, TRUSTEES, AND OTHER**
37 **FIDUCIARIES, MAY LEGALLY INVEST ANY SINKING FUNDS, MONEYS, OR OTHER**
38 **FUNDS BELONGING TO THEM OR WITHIN THEIR CONTROL IN ANY BONDS OR OTHER**

1 OBLIGATIONS ISSUED BY THE MUNICIPALITY PURSUANT TO THIS APPENDIX.
2 HOWEVER, THE BONDS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS SHALL BE SECURED BY AN
3 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ISSUER AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN WHICH THE
4 ISSUER AGREES TO BORROW FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE FEDERAL
5 GOVERNMENT AGREES TO LEND TO THE ISSUER, PRIOR TO THE MATURITY OF THE
6 BONDS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS, MONEYS IN AN AMOUNT WHICH (TOGETHER WITH
7 ANY OTHER MONEYS COMMITTED IRREVOCABLY TO THE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL
8 AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS) WILL SUFFICE TO PAY THE
9 PRINCIPAL OF THE BONDS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS WITH INTEREST TO MATURITY
10 ON THEM. THE MONEYS UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT SHALL BE
11 REQUIRED TO BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE PRINCIPAL OF AND THE
12 INTEREST ON THE BONDS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS AT THEIR MATURITY. THE BONDS
13 AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS SHALL BE AUTHORIZED SECURITY FOR ALL PUBLIC
14 DEPOSITS. THIS SECTION AUTHORIZES ANY PERSONS OR PUBLIC OR PRIVATE
15 POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND OFFICERS TO USE ANY FUNDS OWNED OR
16 CONTROLLED BY THEM FOR THE PURCHASE OF ANY BONDS OR OTHER
17 OBLIGATIONS. WITH REGARD TO LEGAL INVESTMENTS, THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE
18 CONSTRUED TO RELIEVE ANY PERSON OF ANY DUTY OF EXERCISING REASONABLE
19 CARE IN SELECTING SECURITIES.

20 **A1-113. SHORT TITLE.**

21 **THIS APPENDIX SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE WILLIAMSPORT**
22 **URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY FOR BLIGHT CLEARANCE ACT.**

23 **A1-114. AUTHORITY TO AMEND OR REPEAL.**

24 **THIS APPENDIX, ENACTED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 61 OF THE**
25 **MARYLAND CONSTITUTION, MAY BE AMENDED OR REPEALED ONLY BY THE**
26 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND.**

27 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect
28 **October 1, 2022.**