

~~exempt from the provisions and the application of both building and housing codes.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That new Section 3(s) (3) be and it is hereby added to Article 25 - County Commissioners, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1973 Replacement Volume and 1976 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 25 - County Commissioners

3.

(s) (3) (I) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY MAY ADOPT, AND FROM TIME TO TIME MAY AMEND, SUPPLEMENT OR ABROGATE, A BUILDING CODE. THE BUILDING CODE, IF ADOPTED, SHALL PROVIDE AND PRESCRIBE REGULATIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMITS TO BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE CONSTRUCTION OR IMPROVEMENT OF ANY BUILDINGS; AND ANY SUCH CODE SHALL PRESCRIBE STANDARDS OF CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR, COVERING STRUCTURAL SAFETY, FIRE PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS, LIGHTS AND VENTILATION, AND PROPER MEANS OF INGRESS AND EGRESS.

(II) A BUILDING CODE, IF ADOPTED, AND ALL REGULATIONS THEREUNDER, SHALL BE DESIGNED TO ASSURE AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, COMFORT, AND MORAL AND ECONOMIC WELFARE. IT MAY INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT, INCLUDING THE APPOINTMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF INSPECTORS AND INCLUDE PENALTIES FOR A VIOLATION OF THE CODE OR THE REGULATIONS THEREUNDER.

(III) THE BUILDING CODE MAY INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE A PORTION OR ALL, IF APPLICABLE, OF A BUILDING CODE ISSUED OR PROPOSED AND MADE AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL CIRCULATION BY ANY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY OR BY ANY TRADE OR PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION, IF IT IS SPECIFICALLY INCORPORATED THEREIN BY ACTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

(IV) ALL BUILDINGS ON A FARM AND ON ANY PREMISES DEVOTED SOLELY TO AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS ARE EXEMPT FROM THE PROVISIONS AND THE APPLICATION OF THIS PARAGRAPH. IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, THE TERM "AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS" INCLUDES THE PROCESSING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OR THE VENDING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT.

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1977.~~

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and having been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected