Chapter 17. Antiquities and Cultural Properties

SECTION ANALYSIS

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§ 950. Title

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Antiquities and Cultural Properties Act of 1998".—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

§ 951. Declaration of policy

It shall be the policy of the Government of the Virgin Islands to cooperate with the Government of the United States in protecting and managing the Territory's terrestrial and marine historical, cultural and archaeological resources for the benefit of the people of the Virgin Islands.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

HISTORY

Revision note. "Virgin Islands" was substituted for "United States Virgin Islands" pursuant to the Revised Organic Act of 1954.

§ 952. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter:

(a) "Agency" means any department, agency, authority, commission or instrumentality of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

(b) "Archaeological site" means a location wherein exists material evidence of past human life and culture that is older than fifty (50) years, including burials of human beings.

(c) "Archaeological specimen" means any item, relic, remain, object, artifact or other evidence of a prehistoric, historic, cultural, archaeological or anthropological nature that has scientific, historic or cultural value as an object of antiquity.

(d) "Area of potential effects" means the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character or use of an identified historic property.

(e) "Coastal waters" means those navigable waters adjacent to the shoreline, extending out of the three-mile limit from the mean low-tide watermark, and includes, but is not limited to sounds, bays, lagoons, ponds and estuaries that are under the jurisdiction of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

(f) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

(g) "Cultural property" means a structure, place, site or object having historic, archaeological, scientific, architectural or other cultural significance to the Virgin Islands.

(h) "Data recording techniques" means:

(1) The data recording techniques outlined in the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation"; and

(2) Any other data recording technique adopted by the State Historic Preservation Office.

(i) "Department" means the Department of Planning and Natural Resources of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

(j) "Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer" means a representative of the State Historic Preservation Officer, designated to act on his behalf.

(k) "Excavation" means any disturbance or removal of soil or sand from terrestrial and marine environments.

(*l*) "Government" means the Government of the Virgin Islands.

(m) "Historic property" means any and all terrestrial and marine archaeological sites included in or eligible for inclusion in the Virgin Islands Registry of Historic Places, including any and all artifacts, objects and other remains related to and located on such sites.

(n) "Human remains" means a human body or human skeletal remains which was buried, entombed or sepulchered.

(*o*) "National Register" means the National Register of Historic Places, which is the federal listing of historic properties established pursuant to 36 CFR 60.

(p) "National Register criteria" means the criteria established by the Secretary of the Interior for use in evaluating the eligibility of properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

(q) "Navigable waters" means all water belonging to the Government of the Virgin Islands which are navigable in fact.

(r) "Registry" means the Virgin Islands Registry of Historic Places maintained for the purpose of recording historical, cultural and archaeological properties deemed worthy of preservation. Properties located in the Virgin Islands that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places shall be automatically listed in the Virgin Islands Registry.

(s) "Paleontological materials" means fossils and other paleontological specimens, both plant and animal, found in archaeological contexts.

(t) "Person" means any individual, legal entity, corporate group, association or public or private corporation, including the departments, agencies, commissions, authorities and instrumentalities of the Government of the Virgin Islands acting on their own behalf or that of others.

(u) "Permit" means a document issued by the State Historic Preservation Officer evidencing a grant of permission or a right to perform specified recovery operations under this chapter.

(v) "Professional archaeologist" means a person who has a graduate degree in archaeology, anthropology, physical anthropology or a closely related discipline or field of study, who has at least one year of full-time professional supervisory or management experience and at least four months of supervised post-graduate field and analytical experience, and who has a demonstrated ability to complete archaeological research as evidenced by a master of arts or master of science degree and dissertation. A professional archaeologist must be certified in the appropriate area of expertise by the Society for Professional Archaeologists and meet the standards specified in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(w) "Registered property" means property having historical, cultural or archaeological value to the Virgin Islands that has been placed in the Virgin Islands Registry on either a permanent or temporary basis.

(x) "Data recovery operation" means an undertaking authorized by a valid permit from the State Historic Preservation Officer, which may include:

(1) The disturbance or removal of submerged antiquities or other historic or cultural properties that lie within any navigable waters that are within three miles of the mean low-tide watermark of any shoreline of the Virgin Islands; and

(2) The disturbance and removal of any archaeological or paleontological specimens from a historical, cultural or archaeological site.

(y) "State Historic Preservation Officer" is the official of the Government of the Virgin Islands who is appointed or designated pursuant to

section 101(b)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act to administer the state historic preservation program.

(z) "Sacred site" means a site that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

(aa) "Submerged antiquities" means any artifact, object or specimen of archaeological significance that has remained unclaimed for more than fifty (50) years and is located at or below the mean low-tide watermark in the waters of the Virgin Islands. The term does not include vessels, refuse or submerged sites of former habitation.

(bb) "Undertaking" means any project, activity or program that has been reviewed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer, and that can change the character or use of historic properties located in the affected area.

(cc) "Unmarked burial ground" means a location where human skeletal remains are discovered or believed to exist, but for which there exists no written historical documentation or grave markers.

(dd) "Virgin Islands" comprises all land areas and waters, including submerged land to the three-mile limit from the low-tide watermark, under the jurisdiction of the Government of the Virgin Islands.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

HISTORY

Revision notes. "Virgin Islands" was substituted for "United States Virgin Islands" pursuant to the Revised Organic Act of 1954.

Substituted "Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations" for "Volume 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations" at the end of the paragraph in subsection (v) for purposes of clarity pursuant to section 14 of Title 1.

References in text. Section 101(b)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act, referred to in subsection (y), is classified to 16 U.S.C. § 470a.

§ 953. Powers and duties of State Historic Preservation Officer

(a) The Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources shall be the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Director of the Division for Archaeology and Historic Preservation shall be the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for the Virgin Islands. The Division for Archaeology and Historic Preservation shall be the State Historic Preservation Office, which shall be administered by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

(b) The State Historic Preservation Officer shall be responsible for implementing this chapter and the National Historic Preservation Act (P.L.

89–665, as amended), and shall adhere to relevant federal and local rules, regulations and executive orders, including the "Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation", established by the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.

(c) The State Historic Preservation Officer shall implement a plan for the comprehensive survey and identification of all terrestrial and marine archaeological sites, structures, sacred sites, shipwrecks, cemeteries, unmarked human burial sites, ossuaries, objects, artifacts and areas of value in archaeology, history, architecture, engineering and culture of the Virgin Islands, both on land and sea; and maintain a listing of such sites to be referred to as the Virgin Islands Registry of Historic Places; and maintain collections appropriate for the requirements of this chapter.

(d) The State Historic Preservation Officer shall develop educational programs for the purpose of making available to the public information pertaining to historic, terrestrial and marine archaeological sites, buildings, shipwrecks, sacred sites, structures, cemeteries, unmarked human burial sites, ossuaries, objects, artifacts and other properties significant to the Virgin Islands.

(e) The State Historic Preservation Officer shall have mandatory consultation among and between the government and all federally funded government agencies before any agency initiates alterations to or transferals of historic properties or archaeological sites.

(f) The State Historic Preservation Officer shall receive proposals concerning terrestrial and submerged land undertakings by any person to determine whether there may be an adverse effect on public land.

(g) The State Historic Preservation Officer shall issue or deny permits for use, access to, and development of property containing historic, cultural or archaeological resources, and for the excavation or removal of any archaeological specimen for cultural exchange, scientific identification or any other purpose.

(h) The State Historic Preservation Officer shall employ or appoint professionally qualified staff who meet the criteria set forth in 36 CFR, Part 61 to assist in the performance of his duties under this chapter.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

HISTORY

Revision note. "Virgin Islands" was substituted for "United States Virgin Islands" pursuant to the Revised Organic Act of 1954.

References in text. National Historic Preservation Act, referred to in subsection (b), is classified to 16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.

§ 954. Permits; rules and regulations

(a) All persons, except for archaeologists within the Division for Archaeology and Historic Preservation who wish to, or are required to conduct subsurface or underwater archaeological excavations, tests, probing, or other investigations which result in the removal or contextual disturbance of in situ materials or artifacts in Virgin Islands lands or coastal waters, will be required to obtain a permit from the State Historic Preservation Officer. All archaeological investigations must be conducted by professional archaeologists in conformity with standards set by the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA) and outlined in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) Before issuing a permit, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall determine whether:

(1) The applicant meets the criteria set forth in the "Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation" established by the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior, guidelines established by the State Historic Preservation Officer, and any rules and regulations promulgated hereunder; whether the applicant is appropriately qualified, as evidenced by training, education and experience, and is willing to utilize appropriately qualified organizations in the Virgin Islands to complete the proposed work; and whether the applicant possesses demonstrable competence in theoretical and methodological design, and in the collection, handling, conservation, analysis, evaluation, and reporting of archaeological data, based on the type and scope of the work proposed;

(2) The proposed work is to be undertaken for the purpose of furthering scientific and cultural knowledge in the public interest;

(3) The proposed work, including time, scope, funding, location and purpose, is consistent with any management plan, regulation, rule or policy applicable to the property involved;

(4) The permit is in the best interest of the Government.

(c) Only institutions, organizations or corporations organized for scientific, research, or land-use planning purposes may be issued a permit under this chapter, and only after submitting a research plan that meets the standards established by the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding professional qualifications, techniques and methodology for recovery, analysis and dissemination of data, and proper conservation and permanent storage and documentation of specimens and records.

(d) Permits may be issued for such periods of time as the Territorial Historic Preservation Officer deems appropriate.

(e) The State Historic Preservation Officer shall establish rules and regulations for the issuance of permits under this section, and formulate

uniform requirements and specifications to be included in the permit applications.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

HISTORY

Revision note. Substituted "Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations" for "Volume 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations" at the end of the paragraph in subsection (a) for purposes of clarity pursuant to section 14 of Title 1.

ANNOTATIONS

Cited. Cited in Envtl. Ass'n v. Dep't of Planning & Natural Res., 44 V.I. 218, 2002 V.I. LEXIS 12 (Terr. Ct. St. T. and St. J. 2002).

§ 955. Rights of the Government of the Virgin Islands

(a) The Government retains the exclusive right to and control over all historical, cultural and archaeological properties and archaeological specimens located on public lands and waters, including submerged lands.

(b) The Government retains the exclusive right to and control over all historical, cultural and archaeological properties located on public lands leased to others. In all cases where such property is leased, it shall be subjected by covenant or otherwise to such rights of access for inspection, and other conditions or restrictions of operations, maintenance, repairs or restoration, alterations, or modifications as the State Historic Preservation Officer may prescribe for the purpose of protection and preservation of the property.

(c) The Government reserves to itself the exclusive right and privilege to conduct or to permit qualified professional archaeologists to conduct field archaeological operations on properties owned by the Government in order to protect and preserve historical, cultural, and archaeological sites and objects, and scientific and educational information, and to retain to itself artifacts recovered under such permits.

(d) Title to all objects, artifacts or specimens recovered under a valid permit from lands owned by the Government shall be in the Government. —Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

HISTORY

Revision note. "Virgin Islands" was substituted for "United States Virgin Islands" pursuant to the Revised Organic Act of 1954.

§ 956. Excavation

(a) No excavation or other similar activity may be undertaken until a permit is first obtained from the State Historic Preservation Officer.

(b) All excavations, scientific investigations, recovery operations or data recording techniques shall be conducted under the general supervision of the State Historic Preservation Officer, and in such a manner as to maximize the historical, cultural, archaeological, architectural, scientific and educational information recovered and preserved.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

§ 957. Responsibility of government agencies

(a) Each Government agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed governmental or government assisted or approved undertaking shall, in accordance with government policy and prior to the approval of the expenditure of any state funds for the undertaking, consider the effects of the undertaking on any historical, cultural or archaeological property that is included in, or eligible for inclusion in the Virgin Islands Registry of Historic Places. Each such agency shall afford the State Historic Preservation Office fifteen (15) working days to comment and make recommendations with regard to such an undertaking, and shall cooperate with the State Historic Preservation Office in the investigation, recording preservation, or mitigation of adverse impact upon such properties. Each Government agency shall, as early in the planning process as possible, consult with the State Historic Preservation Office to determine if its proposed undertaking will adversely affect any property listed in or eligible for listing in the Virgin Islands Registry or National Register.

(b) Each Government agency shall immediately present to the State Historic Preservation Officer, both verbally and in writing, a full professional report citing the finding of any historical, cultural or archaeological property (including human burial sites or remains) discovered on lands belonging to the Government.

(c) Each Government agency shall assume financial and administrative responsibility for the preservation of all historical, cultural and archaeological properties under its control, including appropriate regular maintenance, and shall exercise caution to ensure than any historic, cultural or archaeological property under its control is not advertently or inadvertently transferred, sold, significantly degraded, substantially altered, or destroyed.

(d) All Government agencies shall comply in full with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the "Standards and Guidelines for Historic Preservation," established by the Secretary of the United States Department of Interior, whenever they engage in any undertaking for which there is federal involvement.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

HISTORY

References in text. National Historic Preservation Act, referred to in subsection (d), is classified to 16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.

§ 958. Temporary classification pending investigation

A historical, cultural or archaeological property which the State Historic Preservation Office has reason to believe may be worthy of preservation may be included in the Virgin Islands Registry of Historic Places on a temporary basis for not more than one (1) year, during which time the office shall investigate the property and make a determination as to whether it may be placed in the Registry permanently. If the property is on private land, the owner shall be immediately notified of the temporary classification. If at the expiration of one (1) year from the time the temporary classification was imposed, the owner is not notified of the office's decision, the temporary classification shall lapse, and shall not be renewed for at least five (5) years.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

§ 959. Notification and permit requirements on private land

(a) Upon discovery of any archaeological or historical site, or human burial site or remains upon private lands, the owner or his representative shall immediately notify the State Historic Preservation Office verbally and in writing.

(b) Any person applying for an Earth Change permit in conformity with Title 12, chapter 13, Virgin Islands Code for commercial purposes on private land shall, at the time of the application, provide the State Historic Preservation Office with a copy of the application, and shall afford that office a reasonable time to consider the effect of the proposed undertaking on properties which are listed in the Registry.

(c) If during its review of the application, the State Historic Preservation Office has reason to believe that the proposed undertaking will alter, disturb, destroy or otherwise adversely affect a property in the Registry, it may require the applicant to undertake, at the applicant's expense, a Phase I Cultural Resources Survey to determine whether any historical or cultural properties are present on the property. For purposes of this section, a Phase I Cultural Resources Survey is defined as a field and documentary investigation sufficient to locate, evaluate and determine the boundaries and significance of all archaeological, historical and cultural sites present on a given property.

(d) In cases where the State Historic Preservation Office determines that a property that is listed in the Virgin Islands Registry of Historic Sites

may be disturbed, altered, destroyed or otherwise adversely affected by the proposed undertaking, the office may recommend to the owner the procedure best calculated to ensure the preservation of the property. Such procedure may include, but not be limited to:

(1) Providing technical assistance to the owner who is willing to restore, preserve and maintain the historical or cultural property;

(2) Acquiring the property or an easement or other right therein by gift or purchase;

(3) Acquiring the property for the Territory through eminent domain;

(4) Conducting a field archaeological operation, as specified in this chapter, that will scientifically investigate, document, analyze and record all historical or cultural properties and objects on the site to the maximum extent possible.

(e) It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person to remove, injure or destroy components of registered historical or archaeological landmarks or cultural properties situated on private property or controlled by a private owner without the owner's prior permission. Where the owner of a historical, cultural or archaeological property has submitted his acceptance in writing for the inclusion of that property in the Registry, the provisions of this chapter shall apply to that property.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent ordinary maintenance or repair of any existing feature in or on an archaeological or historical property on private land.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

§ 960. Procedures upon discovery of human burial sites

(a) Each human burial in the Territory, interred in any marked or unmarked site, is accorded the protection of law and shall receive appropriate and respectful treatment and disposition.

(b) Any person who discovers a human burial site shall immediately cease any activity that may disturb that site or any object or artifact associated with it, and shall immediately report the discovery to the State Historic Preservation Office. The remains, objects, or artifacts discovered shall not be disturbed further without a permit from the State Historic Preservation Officer.

(c) Upon notification of the discovery of a human burial site, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall notify the medical examiner responsible for the appropriate administrative jurisdiction in a timely manner.

(d) It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person to knowingly, willfully, and intentionally disturb, excavate, remove or destroy any human remains buried, entombed or sepulchered in the Territory, or knowingly, willfully and intentionally procure, direct or employ any other person to

disturb, excavate, remove or destroy any human remains buried, entombed or sepulchered in the Territory; except by authority of a written permit issued by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

(e) Within one (1) year after the effective date of this section, the State Historic Preservation Office shall adopt uniform and comprehensive rules relating to the reporting procedures, procedures to request permission to disturb human remains, and the standards to accompany the granting of permission to disturb human remains and burial sites.

(f) If the human remains are on private property, and

(1) The State Historic Preservation Office does not respond to a request for permission to disturb in a timely manner; or

(2) The property owner rejects the response submitted by the State Historic Preservation Office; the property owner shall, at his own expense, re-inter with appropriate dignity all human remains, objects, and artifacts associated with the site in a location not subject to further disturbance, pending the approval and verification by the State Historic Preservation Office.

(g) If the burial site is located on public land and action is necessary to protect the burial site from immediate destruction, the State Historic Preservation Officer may cause a professional archaeologist to excavate the site and remove all objects, artifacts and human remains associated with the site for subsequent re-interment, following scientific study, at the expense of the applicant.

(h) Re-interment shall be made within one (1) year of discovery, unless additional time is needed for scientific analysis. Approval for delay in re-interment must be granted in writing by the State Historic Preservation Officer.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

§ 961. Confidentiality of site location

Any information in the custody of a public official concerning the location of archaeological resources, the preservation of which is in the interest of the Territory, shall remain confidential unless the State Historic Preservation Officer certifies in writing that the dissemination of such information will further the purpose of this chapter, and will not create a risk of loss of archaeological resources.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

§ 962. Special permit required for excavation on private land

(a) It shall be a violation of this chapter for any person to excavate with the use of mechanical earth-moving equipment or by manual means an archaeological site for the purpose of collecting or removing archaeological

specimens when such archaeological site is on private land, including privately owned submerged land, in the Territory, unless such person has first obtained a permit for such excavation issued by the State Historic Preservation Officer pursuant to this section.

(b) A permit may be issued under this section when:

(1) The applicant submits written authorization for the excavation from the owner of the land;

(2) The applicant furnishes satisfactory evidence of being qualified to perform such archaeological excavation by experience, training and knowledge as defined in this chapter;

(3) The applicant submits a satisfactory plan of excavation for the archaeological site and states therein the method by which such excavation shall be undertaken; and

(4) The applicant agrees in writing that upon completion of the excavation, he will submit to the State Historic Preservation Office a complete report of the excavation, which shall contain relevant maps, documents, drawings, and photographs, together with a detailed description of the archaeological specimens removed as a result of such excavation. Failure to file the complete report shall be grounds for refusing the issuance of a future permit to such person.

(c) All archaeological specimens collected or removed from the archaeological site as a result of the excavation shall be maintained according to the conditions outlined in the permit.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

§ 963. Enforcement

(a) *Criminal penalties.* Any person who knowingly, willfully and intentionally:

(1) appropriates, excavates, injures or destroys or cause to be appropriated, excavated, injured or destroyed any historical, cultural or archaeological site, object, specimen, artifact, ruin, or feature situated in lands owned by the Government without a valid permit issued by the State Historic Preservation Officer, or who

(2) violates any condition or provision of a valid permit issued by the State Historic Preservation Officer, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than $500 or more than $10,000 per day per violation, or be imprisoned for no more than one (1) year, or both, and shall forfeit to the Government all specimens, objects, material, vehicles and equipment associated with the violation.

(b) *Injunctive relief.* The State Historic Preservation Officer, or any resident of the Virgin Islands, is authorized to commence a civil action for appropriate relief, including a permanent or temporary restraining injunc-

tion, for any violation or threatened violation of this chapter. It shall not be necessary to first revoke any permit prior to seeking injunctive relief. Such action shall be brought in the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands, which shall have jurisdiction to restrain the violation and to order compliance.

(c) *Civil penalties.*

(1) Any person who violates any provision of this chapter, or of any permit, rule, regulation, standard or order issued or promulgated hereunder, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $100 nor more than $500 per day per violation.

(2) Civil penalties charged pursuant to this subsection may be assessed administratively by the State Historic Preservation Officer if the person charged has been given an opportunity to have a hearing, and the State Historic Preservation Officer made findings of fact and conclusions of law in making the civil assessment. The State Historic Preservation Officer may promulgate rules and regulations to implement this section.

(d) All funds, fines or proceeds from forfeitures collected under this section shall be deposited in the Archaeological Preservation Fund, established in section 963 of this chapter.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

HISTORY

Revision note. Redesignated subsection (a) "Civil Penalties" as subsection (c), to avoid conflict with subsection (a) "Criminal Penalties", pursuant to section 14 of Title 1.

§ 964. Archaeological Preservation Fund

(a) There is hereby established as a separate and distinct fund within the Treasury of the Virgin Islands, a special fund designated "The Archaeological Preservation Fund." The Commissioner of Finance shall maintain and provide for the administration of this fund, and no monies shall be made available for expenditure therefrom except as provided in this section.

(b) The Archaeological Preservation Fund shall be composed of:

(1) Fees and fines collected pursuant to this chapter;

(2) Public or private monetary grants, gifts, donations, or bequests; and

(3) All sums appropriated thereto, from time to time, by the Legislature.

(c) Monies shall be disbursed from the Archaeological Preservation Fund by the Commissioner of Finance, upon authorization by the State Historic Preservation Officer, to carry out the duties and mandate of this chapter.—Added May 29, 1998, No. 6234, § 1, Sess. L. 1998, p. 337.

Chapter 19. Enterprise Zone Program Act

Subchapter I. Enterprise zone program

SECTION ANALYSIS

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HISTORY

Revision note. This chapter, which was originally enacted as chapter 17, consisting of §§ 1001–1014, was redesignated as chapter 19 to avoid conflict with existing chapter 17, consisting of §§ 950–964, as added by Act No. 6234.

Subchapter I. Enterprise zone program

§ 1001. Legislative findings

The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

(a) there exists in localities throughout the territory, areas of historical significance that once experienced commercial and trade activity, but due to the general economic downturn are in need of economic and physical revitalization;

(b) these areas having been proclaimed by Executive Order as Enterprise Zones include blighted areas (as defined in section 1003 of this Title) that have displayed high levels of unemployment. physical deterioration, and economic disinvestment;

(c) the existence of such areas tarnishes the image and reputation of the territory in the eyes of its residents and visitors alike, reduces the