

Special Legislation for the
Revitalization of
Central Business Districts

The central business districts which constitute the cultural and economic hearts of cities, the principal tax resources, and the principal sources of employment in most communities, are facing increasingly serious problems of decay and congestion. The renewal and revitalization of downtowns require a special approach and treatment not available or possible under existing law, regulations, and procedures.

In order to enable a city to undertake comprehensive programs to strengthen the ability of its central business district to function effectively, new legislation is required which will:

1. Recognize that the health of commercial, industrial, and cultural functions of central business districts is essential to a well balanced community.
2. Permit the Secretary to qualify site improvements and supporting facilities as part of the gross project cost and as local grants-in-aid.
3. Allow for the acquisition and rehabilitation of historical properties in such areas.
4. Permit waiver of residential requirements in renewing central business districts.

Revitalization of central business districts made possible by the attached amendment will:

1. Strengthen the tax base of cities.
2. Permit the use of the increased local tax resources to more nearly meet the educational, social welfare, recreational, and cultural needs of the people.
3. Improve the economic health of cities.
4. Increase employment opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled in central business districts where the greatest potential for such employment exists now and will exist even more so as revitalization is accomplished.

This proposed legislation was introduced in the 88th Congress as H.R. 6431 and as a part of S. 2031, and was endorsed by:

- . United States Conference of Mayors
- . National League of Cities
- . Joint Council on Housing and Urban Development
- . National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
- . National Housing Conference

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