

## HB 424 -- Urban Conservation Commission

Sponsor: Parker

This bill establishes the Urban Conservation Commission to promote and effect the conservation, restoration, redevelopment, and revitalization of the urban resources of the state, including the acquisition of property for these purposes. The nine-member commission is responsible for creating a comprehensive 10-year plan to address the problems associated with distressed urban areas.

The commission, whose powers and duties are specified in the bill, will have authority over state programs designed to remedy blight and deterioration in urban areas, as well as the authority to facilitate the revitalization of distressed urban areas. It will also be responsible for reversing the decline of property values in distressed urban areas.

The commission will write a comprehensive plan containing initial proposals for addressing the revitalization of each area that is identified as a distressed urban area and will propose a time line in which the revitalization will occur. An update of the comprehensive plan will be done periodically. The bill requires the commission to submit a full report of its findings to the General Assembly by January 15 of each year.

The bill also creates the Urban Conservation Commission Fund. Upon appropriation, moneys in the fund will be used solely for the administration of the commission.