

# HOUSE BILL 137

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HB 42/08 – ENV

9lr0815

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By: **Delegates McConkey, Weir, Boteler, Hucker, Holmes, Bobo, and Glenn**  
Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2009  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 24, 2009

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Home Financial Accountability Act of 2009**

3 FOR the purpose of clarifying the availability of certain books and records kept by or  
4 on behalf of certain common ownership communities for certain purposes and to  
5 certain persons; requiring the governing body of certain common ownership  
6 communities, on request of a member, unit owner, or lot owner, to compile and  
7 send certain information within a certain time; making a stylistic change;  
8 altering certain limitations concerning public inspection of certain records;  
9 prohibiting certain common ownership communities from imposing certain fees  
10 other than a reasonable charge imposed on a person desiring to review or copy  
11 certain books and records or who requests delivery of certain information;  
12 providing that a charge for copying certain records may not exceed a certain  
13 amount; and generally relating to access to the books and records of cooperative  
14 housing associations, condominiums, and homeowners associations.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
16 Article – Corporations and Associations  
17 Section 5–6B–18.5  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2007 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
21 Article – Real Property  
22 Section 11–116(c) and (d) and 11B–112(a) and (b)  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Corporations and Associations**

4 5-6B-18.5.

5 (a) (1) (I) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, all  
6 books and records kept by or on behalf of a cooperative housing corporation shall be  
7 made available for examination [and] **OR** copying, **OR BOTH**, by a member, a  
8 member's mortgagee, [and] **OR** their respective duly authorized agents or attorneys,  
9 during normal business hours, and after reasonable notice.

10 (II) **IF A MEMBER REQUESTS A COPY OF FINANCIAL**  
11 **STATEMENTS OF THE COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATION OR THE MINUTES**  
12 **OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR OTHER GOVERNING BODY OF**  
13 **THE COOPERATIVE HOUSING CORPORATION TO BE DELIVERED, THE BOARD OF**  
14 **DIRECTORS OR OTHER GOVERNING BODY OF THE COOPERATIVE HOUSING**  
15 **CORPORATION SHALL COMPILE AND SEND THE REQUESTED INFORMATION BY**  
16 **MAIL, ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION, OR PERSONAL DELIVERY WITHIN 21 DAYS**  
17 **AFTER RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST.**

18 (2) Books and records kept by or on behalf of a cooperative housing  
19 corporation may be withheld from public inspection, **EXCEPT FOR INSPECTION BY**  
20 **THE PERSON WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF THE RECORD OR THE PERSON'S**  
21 **DESIGNEE OR GUARDIAN**, to the extent that they concern:

22 (i) Personnel records, **NOT INCLUDING INFORMATION ON**  
23 **INDIVIDUAL SALARIES, WAGES, BONUSES, AND OTHER COMPENSATION PAID TO**  
24 **EMPLOYEES RECEIVING ANNUAL COMPENSATION EXCEEDING \$50,000;**

25 (ii) An individual's medical records;

26 (iii) An individual's **PERSONAL** financial records, **INCLUDING**  
27 **ASSETS, INCOME, LIABILITIES, NET WORTH, BANK BALANCES, FINANCIAL**  
28 **HISTORY OR ACTIVITIES, AND CREDITWORTHINESS;**

29 (iv) Records relating to business transactions that are currently  
30 in negotiation;

31 (v) The written advice of legal counsel; or

32 (vi) Minutes of a closed meeting of the board of directors or other  
33 governing body of the cooperative housing corporation, **UNLESS A MAJORITY OF A**  
34 **QUORUM OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR GOVERNING BODY THAT HELD THE**

1 MEETING APPROVES UNSEALING THE MINUTES OR A RECORDING OF THE  
2 MINUTES FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

3 (b) (1) [The cooperative housing corporation may impose] **EXCEPT FOR** a  
4 reasonable charge **IMPOSED** on a person desiring to review or copy the books and  
5 records **OR WHO REQUESTS DELIVERY OF INFORMATION, THE COOPERATIVE**  
6 **HOUSING CORPORATION MAY NOT IMPOSE ANY CHARGES UNDER THIS SECTION.**

7 (2) **A CHARGE IMPOSED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
8 **SUBSECTION FOR COPYING BOOKS AND RECORDS MAY NOT EXCEED THE LIMITS**  
9 **AUTHORIZED UNDER TITLE 7, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE**  
10 **PREVAILING AVERAGE CHARGE BY COMMERCIAL COPYING SERVICES IN THE**  
11 **COMMUNITY.**

## 12 Article - Real Property

13 11-116.

14 (c) (1) (I) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, all  
15 books and records, including insurance policies, kept by the council of unit owners  
16 shall be maintained in Maryland or within 50 miles of its borders and shall be  
17 available at some place designated by the council of unit owners within the county  
18 where the condominium is located for examination [and] **OR** copying, **OR BOTH**, by  
19 any unit owner, [his] **A UNIT OWNER'S** mortgagee, [and] **OR** their respective duly  
20 authorized agents or attorneys, during normal business hours, and after reasonable  
21 notice.

22 (II) **IF A UNIT OWNER REQUESTS A COPY OF FINANCIAL**  
23 **STATEMENTS OF THE CONDOMINIUM OR THE MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE**  
24 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR OTHER GOVERNING BODY OF THE CONDOMINIUM TO**  
25 **BE DELIVERED, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR OTHER GOVERNING BODY OF**  
26 **THE CONDOMINIUM SHALL COMPILE AND SEND THE REQUESTED INFORMATION**  
27 **BY MAIL, ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION, OR PERSONAL DELIVERY WITHIN 21**  
28 **DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST.**

29 (2) Books and records kept by or on behalf of a council of unit owners  
30 may be withheld from public inspection, **EXCEPT FOR INSPECTION BY THE PERSON**  
31 **WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF THE RECORD OR THE PERSON'S DESIGNEE OR**  
32 **GUARDIAN**, to the extent that they concern:

33 (i) Personnel records, **NOT INCLUDING INFORMATION ON**  
34 **INDIVIDUAL SALARIES, WAGES, BONUSES, AND OTHER COMPENSATION PAID TO**  
35 **EMPLOYEES RECEIVING ANNUAL COMPENSATION EXCEEDING \$50,000;**

36 (ii) An individual's medical records;

1 (iii) An individual's **PERSONAL** financial records, **INCLUDING**  
2 **ASSETS, INCOME, LIABILITIES, NET WORTH, BANK BALANCES, FINANCIAL**  
3 **HISTORY OR ACTIVITIES, AND CREDITWORTHINESS;**

4 (iv) Records relating to business transactions that are currently  
5 in negotiation;

6 (v) The written advice of legal counsel; or

7 (vi) Minutes of a closed meeting of the board of directors or other  
8 governing body of the council of unit owners, **UNLESS A MAJORITY OF A QUORUM OF**  
9 **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR GOVERNING BODY THAT HELD THE MEETING**  
10 **APPROVES UNSEALING THE MINUTES OR A RECORDING OF THE MINUTES FOR**  
11 **PUBLIC INSPECTION.**

12 (d) (1) [The council of unit owners may impose] **EXCEPT FOR** a  
13 reasonable charge [upon] **IMPOSED ON** a person desiring to review or copy the books  
14 and records **OR WHO REQUESTS DELIVERY OF INFORMATION, THE COUNCIL OF**  
15 **UNIT OWNERS MAY NOT IMPOSE ANY CHARGES UNDER THIS SECTION.**

16 (2) **A CHARGE IMPOSED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
17 **SUBSECTION FOR COPYING BOOKS AND RECORDS MAY NOT EXCEED THE ~~LIMITS~~**  
18 **~~AUTHORIZED UNDER TITLE 7, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE~~**  
19 **PREVAILING AVERAGE CHARGE BY COMMERCIAL COPYING SERVICES IN THE**  
20 **COMMUNITY.**

21 11B-112.

22 (a) (1) (I) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection,  
23 all books and records kept by or on behalf of the homeowners association shall be  
24 made available for examination [and] **OR copying, OR BOTH,** by a lot owner, a lot  
25 owner's mortgagee, [and] **OR** their respective duly authorized agents or attorneys,  
26 during normal business hours, and after reasonable notice.

27 (II) **IF A LOT OWNER REQUESTS A COPY OF FINANCIAL**  
28 **STATEMENTS OF THE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION OR THE MINUTES OF A**  
29 **MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TO BE**  
30 **DELIVERED, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION SHALL**  
31 **COMPILE AND SEND THE REQUESTED INFORMATION BY MAIL, ELECTRONIC**  
32 **TRANSMISSION, OR PERSONAL DELIVERY WITHIN 21 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF**  
33 **THE REQUEST.**

34 (2) Books and records kept by or on behalf of a homeowners  
35 association may be withheld from public inspection, **EXCEPT FOR INSPECTION BY**

1 THE PERSON WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF THE RECORD OR THE PERSON'S  
2 DESIGNEE OR GUARDIAN, to the extent that they concern:

3 (i) Personnel records, **NOT INCLUDING INFORMATION ON**  
4 **INDIVIDUAL SALARIES, WAGES, BONUSES, AND OTHER COMPENSATION PAID TO**  
5 **EMPLOYEES RECEIVING ANNUAL COMPENSATION EXCEEDING \$50,000;**

6 (ii) An individual's medical records;

7 (iii) An individual's **PERSONAL** financial records, **INCLUDING**  
8 **ASSETS, INCOME, LIABILITIES, NET WORTH, BANK BALANCES, FINANCIAL**  
9 **HISTORY OR ACTIVITIES, AND CREDITWORTHINESS;**

10 (iv) Records relating to business transactions that are currently  
11 in negotiation;

12 (v) The written advice of legal counsel; or

13 (vi) Minutes of a closed meeting of the governing body of the  
14 homeowners association, **UNLESS A MAJORITY OF A QUORUM OF THE GOVERNING**  
15 **BODY OF THE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION THAT HELD THE MEETING APPROVES**  
16 **UNSEALING THE MINUTES OR A RECORDING OF THE MINUTES FOR PUBLIC**  
17 **INSPECTION.**

18 (b) (1) [The homeowners association may impose] **EXCEPT FOR** a  
19 reasonable charge [upon] **IMPOSED ON** a person desiring to review or copy the books  
20 and records **OR WHO REQUESTS DELIVERY OF INFORMATION, THE HOMEOWNERS**  
21 **ASSOCIATION MAY NOT IMPOSE ANY CHARGES UNDER THIS SECTION.**

22 (2) **A CHARGE IMPOSED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
23 **SUBSECTION FOR COPYING BOOKS AND RECORDS MAY NOT EXCEED THE LIMITS**  
24 **AUTHORIZED UNDER TITLE 7, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE**  
25 **PREVAILING AVERAGE CHARGE BY COMMERCIAL COPYING SERVICES IN THE**  
26 **COMMUNITY.**

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2009.