

SENATE BILL 248

L3, N1

6lr1585

By: **Senator Astle**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2016

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Municipalities – Vacant or Blighted Buildings – Registration and Remediation**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a municipality to establish and maintain a registry of
4 vacant or blighted buildings and a special remediation fund to administer
5 registration, inspection, and remediation programs for vacant or blighted buildings;
6 and generally relating to municipal authority to regulate vacant or blighted
7 buildings.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article – Local Government

10 Section 5–203, 6–101, and 6–102

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2013 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Local Government

15 Section 5–219

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2013 Volume and 2015 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Local Government**

21 5–203.

22 (a) In addition to, but not in substitution of, the powers that have been or may be
23 granted to it, the legislative body of a municipality may exercise the express powers
24 provided in this subtitle by adopting ordinances.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(b) Except as provided in Article XI–E of the Maryland Constitution, an ordinance adopted by the legislative body of a municipality may not conflict with State law.

5–219.

A MUNICIPALITY MAY ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN:

(1) A REGISTRY OF VACANT OR BLIGHTED BUILDINGS; AND

(2) A SPECIAL REMEDIATION FUND TO ADMINISTER REGISTRATION, INSPECTION, AND REMEDIATION PROGRAMS FOR VACANT OR BLIGHTED BUILDINGS.

6–101.

(a) The legislative body of a municipality may provide that violations of ordinances and resolutions authorized by this division are punishable as misdemeanors.

(b) A penalty for a violation of an ordinance or resolution that is declared to be a misdemeanor under this section may not exceed imprisonment for 6 months or a fine of \$1,000 or both.

(c) Sections 7–504 and 7–505 of the Courts Article shall govern imprisonment in default of fines and costs.

6–102.

(a) (1) Unless State law classifies a violation as a criminal offense, the legislative body of a municipality may provide, by law, that a violation of a municipal ordinance is a municipal infraction.

(2) A municipal infraction is a civil offense.

(b) The legislative body of a municipality may classify as a municipal infraction:

(1) a violation of an ordinance or regulation concerning zoning or land use;
and

(2) littering in the municipality as prohibited under § 10–110 of the Criminal Law Article.

(c) (1) A fine not exceeding \$1,000 may be imposed for each municipal infraction.

(2) The fine is payable to the municipality by the person charged in the citation within 20 calendar days of service of the citation.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2016.