

# HOUSE BILL 954

N1

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By: **Delegate Holmes**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2017

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Foreclosed Property Registry – Updated Information – Notice to Local**  
3 **Governments**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to  
5 establish procedures that require a foreclosure purchaser to send to the Department  
6 any updates to certain information in the Foreclosed Property Registry under certain  
7 circumstances; requiring the Department to send to certain local governments  
8 certain information about each residential property registered in the Foreclosed  
9 Property Registry under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the  
10 Foreclosed Property Registry.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – Real Property  
13 Section 14–126.1  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Real Property**

19 14–126.1.

20 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (2) “Department” means the Department of Labor, Licensing, and  
22 Regulation.

23 (3) “Foreclosed Property Registry” means the Foreclosed Property Registry  
24 established by the Department under subsection (b) of this section.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (4) “Foreclosure purchaser” means the person identified as the purchaser  
2 on the report of sale required by Maryland Rule 14–305 for a foreclosure sale of residential  
3 property.

4           (5) “Fund” means the Foreclosed Property Registry Fund established by  
5 the Department under subsection (i) of this section.

6           (6) “Local jurisdiction” means:

7                   (i) A county; or

8                   (ii) A municipal corporation.

9           (7) “Residential property” means real property improved by four or fewer  
10 dwelling units that are designed principally and are intended for human habitation.

11           (b) The Department shall establish and maintain an Internet–based Foreclosed  
12 Property Registry for information relating to foreclosure sales of residential property.

13           (c) At the time of a foreclosure sale of residential property, the person responsible  
14 for conducting the foreclosure shall obtain from the foreclosure purchaser a written  
15 acknowledgment of the requirements of this section.

16           (d) (1) Within 30 days after a foreclosure sale of residential property, a  
17 foreclosure purchaser shall submit an initial registration to the Foreclosed Property  
18 Registry.

19                   (2) The initial registration shall:

20                           (i) Be in the form the Department requires; and

21                           (ii) Contain the following information:

22                                   1. The name, telephone number, and address of the  
23 foreclosure purchaser;

24                                   2. The street address of the property that is the subject of the  
25 foreclosure sale;

26                                   3. The date of the foreclosure sale;

27                                   4. Whether the property is a single–family or multifamily  
28 property;

1                   5.     The name and address of the person, including a  
2 substitute purchaser, who is authorized to accept legal service for the foreclosure  
3 purchaser;

4                   6.     To the best of the foreclosure purchaser's knowledge at the  
5 time of registration:

6                   A.     Whether the residential property is vacant; and

7                   B.     The name, telephone number, and street address of the  
8 person who is responsible for the maintenance of the property; and

9                   7.     Whether the foreclosure purchaser has possession of the  
10 property.

11                   (3)    Within 30 days after a deed transferring title to the residential property  
12 has been recorded, the foreclosure purchaser shall submit a final registration to the  
13 Foreclosed Property Registry.

14                   (4)    The final registration shall:

15                   (i)    Be in the form the Department requires; and

16                   (ii)   Contain the following information as of the date of final  
17 registration:

18                   1.     The name, telephone number, and address of the owner on  
19 the deed;

20                   2.     The date of the ratification of the sale; and

21                   3.     The date the deed was recorded.

22                   **(5)    THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES THAT**  
23 **REQUIRE A FORECLOSURE PURCHASER, AFTER SUBMITTING AN INITIAL**  
24 **REGISTRATION, TO SEND TO THE DEPARTMENT ANY UPDATES TO THE INFORMATION**  
25 **ABOUT OR RELATING TO THE FORECLOSURE PURCHASER THAT WAS SUBMITTED IN**  
26 **THE INITIAL REGISTRATION.**

27                   **(6)    FOR EACH RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY FOR WHICH THE**  
28 **DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AN INITIAL REGISTRATION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**  
29 **PROMPTLY SEND TO THE COUNTY AND, IF APPROPRIATE, THE MUNICIPAL**  
30 **CORPORATION IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED A COPY OF:**

31                   **(1)    THE INITIAL REGISTRATION; AND**

1 (II) ANY UPDATED INFORMATION RECEIVED UNDER  
2 PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

3 (e) (1) The filing fees for registering a residential property are:

4 (i) \$50 for an initial registration filed within the time period  
5 required under subsection (d)(1) of this section; and

6 (ii) \$100 for an initial registration filed after the time period  
7 required under subsection (d)(1) of this section.

8 (2) There is no fee for a final registration.

9 (3) A filing fee paid under paragraph (1) of this subsection is  
10 nonrefundable.

11 (4) A local jurisdiction may enact a local law that imposes a civil penalty  
12 for failure to register under this section in an amount not exceeding \$1,000.

13 (f) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a local jurisdiction that, in  
14 accordance with any applicable building code or local ordinance, abates a nuisance on a  
15 residential property registered under this section or takes action to maintain a residential  
16 property registered under this section may collect the cost associated with the abatement  
17 or other action as a charge included on the residential property's property tax bill.

18 (2) (i) The cost associated with an abatement or other action taken  
19 under paragraph (1) of this subsection may not be included as a charge on the residential  
20 property's property tax bill unless the local jurisdiction provides advance written notice in  
21 accordance with subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph to:

22 1. The person identified in the registry who is authorized to  
23 accept legal service for the foreclosure purchaser; and

24 2. The person identified in the registry who is responsible for  
25 the maintenance of the property.

26 (ii) The notice described in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph shall:

27 1. Describe the intended abatement or other action the local  
28 jurisdiction intends to take; and

29 2. Be provided:

30 A. In accordance with the notice provisions of the applicable  
31 building code or local ordinance; or

1                   B.     If the applicable building code or local ordinance does not  
2 provide for notice, at least 30 days before the local jurisdiction abates the nuisance or takes  
3 action to maintain the property.

4           (g)   (1)   The Foreclosed Property Registry:

5                   (i)   Is not a public record as defined by § 4–101 of the General  
6 Provisions Article; and

7                   (ii)  Is not subject to Title 4 of the General Provisions Article.

8           (2)   The Department may authorize access to the Foreclosed Property  
9 Registry only to local jurisdictions, their agencies, and representatives and State agencies.

10           (3)   Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, the  
11 Department or a local jurisdiction may provide information for a specific property in the  
12 Foreclosed Property Registry to:

13                   (i)   A person who owns property on the same block; or

14                   (ii)  A homeowners association or condominium in which the property  
15 is located.

16           (h)   Revenue collected from the filing fees required under subsection (e)(1) of this  
17 section shall be distributed to the Fund.

18           (i)   (1)   There is a Foreclosed Property Registry Fund in the Department.

19                   (2)   The purpose of the Fund is to support the development, administration,  
20 and maintenance of the Foreclosed Property Registry established under this section.

21                   (3)   The Department shall administer the Fund.

22                   (4)   (i)   The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to §  
23 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

24                   (ii)  The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the  
25 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

26                   (5)   The Fund consists of:

27                   (i)   Revenue distributed to the Fund under subsection (h) of this  
28 section;

29                   (ii)  Investment earnings of the Fund;

30                   (iii) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; and

1 (iv) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit  
2 of the Fund.

3 (6) (i) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the  
4 same manner as other State money may be invested.

5 (ii) Any investment earnings of the Fund shall be paid into the Fund.

6 (j) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, only the State  
7 may enact a law requiring a notice to be filed with a unit of government to register  
8 residential properties that are subject to foreclosure.

9 (2) This subsection does not restrict or otherwise affect the ability of a unit  
10 of government to require a registration or notice to be filed for a purpose other than one  
11 relating to foreclosure, even if a property to be identified in the registration or notice is  
12 subject to foreclosure.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 2017.