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By: **Delegates Bobo, Bronrott, Burns, Cane, V. Clagett, Franchot, Holmes,  
McConkey, Montgomery, Murray, Oaks, Parker, Ramirez, Ross, Taylor,  
and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Landlord and Tenant - Termination of Lease - Limitation of Liability for**  
3 **Rent**

4 FOR the purpose of limiting the liability of a tenant for rent under a residential lease  
5 to a certain amount if the tenant vacates the leased premises under certain  
6 circumstances; requiring a tenant to provide a landlord a certain written  
7 certification from a physician and a certain written notice of termination to  
8 qualify for a certain limitation of liability for rent under certain circumstances;  
9 providing that this Act may not be construed to affect a certain duty of a  
10 landlord, a certain obligation of a tenant, or certain rights or obligations of a  
11 landlord or tenant under a certain federal law; and generally relating to limiting  
12 the liability for rent of a tenant who terminates a lease.

13 BY adding to  
14 Article - Real Property  
15 Section 8-212.2  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

20 **Article - Real Property**

21 8-212.2.

22 (A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS TITLE, IF A TENANT  
23 UNDER A RESIDENTIAL LEASE MEETS THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION  
24 (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE TENANT'S LIABILITY FOR RENT UNDER THE LEASE MAY  
25 NOT EXCEED 60 DAYS' RENT AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THE TENANT VACATES THE  
26 LEASED PREMISES.

1 (B) TO QUALIFY FOR THE LIMITATION OF LIABILITY UNDER SUBSECTION (A)  
2 OF THIS SECTION, THE TENANT SHALL PROVIDE TO THE LANDLORD BEFORE THE  
3 TENANT VACATES THE LEASED PREMISES:

4 (1) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION,  
5 A WRITTEN CERTIFICATION FROM A PHYSICIAN REGARDING AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS  
6 A NAMED PARTY IN, OR AN AUTHORIZED OCCUPANT UNDER THE TERMS OF, THE  
7 LEASE THAT STATES IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FOLLOWING FORM:

8 "I, (NAME OF PHYSICIAN), HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY PATIENT, (NAME OF  
9 PATIENT), IS NO LONGER ABLE TO LIVE AT HIS OR HER LEASED PREMISES, (ADDRESS  
10 OF LEASED PREMISES), BECAUSE THE PATIENT HAS A MEDICAL CONDITION THAT:

11 (1) SUBSTANTIALLY RESTRICTS THE PHYSICAL MOBILITY OF THE  
12 PATIENT WITHIN, OR FROM ENTERING AND EXITING, THE LEASED PREMISES, AND  
13 THE PATIENT REPORTS THAT THE PATIENT IS NOT ABLE TO REASONABLY MAKE  
14 MODIFICATIONS TO REMOVE THE RESTRICTIONS; OR

15 (2) REQUIRES THE PATIENT TO MOVE TO A HOME, FACILITY, OR  
16 INSTITUTION TO OBTAIN A HIGHER LEVEL OF CARE THAN CAN BE PROVIDED AT THE  
17 LEASED PREMISES.

18 I CERTIFY FURTHER THAT THE EXPECTED DURATION OF THE PATIENT'S  
19 MEDICAL CONDITION WILL CONTINUE BEYOND THE TERMINATION DATE OF THE  
20 PATIENT'S LEASE, WHICH THE PATIENT STATES IS (TERMINATION DATE OF LEASE).";  
21 AND

22 (2) A WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE TERMINATION OF THE LEASE STATING  
23 THE DATE BY WHEN THE TENANT WILL VACATE THE LEASED PREMISES.

24 (C) A CERTIFICATION THAT IS PROVIDED TO A LANDLORD UNDER  
25 SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE:

26 (1) WRITTEN BY A PHYSICIAN WHO IS LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD  
27 OF PHYSICIAN QUALITY ASSURANCE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN THE STATE UNDER  
28 TITLE 14 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE;

29 (2) PREPARED ON THE LETTERHEAD OR PRINTED PRESCRIPTION FORM  
30 OF THE PHYSICIAN; AND

31 (3) SIGNED BY THE PHYSICIAN.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be  
33 construed to affect a landlord's duty to mitigate damages, an obligation of the tenant  
34 under the lease to pay for the cost of repairing damage to the leased premises caused  
35 by an act or omission of the tenant, or the rights or obligations of a landlord or a  
36 tenant under the federal Fair Housing Act.

37 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
38 effect October 1, 2005.

