

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 123
EMERGENCY BILL

N1

(6lr0594)

ENROLLED BILL
-- Environmental Matters/Judicial Proceedings --

Introduced by **Delegates Feldman, Barkley, Bronrott, Cryor, Dumais,
Goldwater, Heller, Lawton, Lee, Madaleno, Mandel, and ~~Petzold~~
Petzold, and Montgomery**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Real Property - Condominiums - Conversion of Rental Facilities - Extended**
3 **Leases**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the households to which a developer converting a rental
5 facility to a condominium is required to offer a certain extended lease; altering
6 the allocation of certain units to certain households; defining a certain term;
7 repealing a certain definition; making certain conforming changes; providing for
8 the application of this Act; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally
9 relating to conversion of certain rental facilities to condominiums.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Real Property
12 Section 11-102.1(f) and 11-137
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

3 **Article - Real Property**

4 11-102.1.

5 (f) The notice referred to in subsection (a) of this section shall be sufficient for
6 the purposes of this section if it is in substantially the following form. As to rental
7 facilities containing less than 10 units, "Section 2" of the notice is not required to be
8 given.

9 "NOTICE OF INTENTION TO
10 CREATE A CONDOMINIUM

11 (Date)

12 This is to inform you that the rental facility known as
13 may be converted to a condominium regime in accordance with the Maryland
14 Condominium Act. You may be required to move out of your residence after 180 days
15 have passed from the date of this notice, or in other words, after (Date).

16 Section 1
17 Rights that apply to all tenants

18 If you are a tenant in this rental facility and you have not already given notice
19 that you intend to move, you have the following rights, provided you have previously
20 paid your rent and continue to pay your rent and abide by the other conditions of your
21 lease.

22 (1) You may remain in your residence on the same rent, terms, and conditions
23 of your existing lease until either the end of your lease term or until
24 (Date) (the end of the 180-day period), whichever is later. If your lease term ends
25 during the 180-day period, it will be extended on the same rent, terms, and conditions
26 until (Date) (the end of the 180-day period). In addition, certain
27 households may be entitled to extend their leases beyond the 180 days as described in
28 Section 2.

29 (2) You have the right to purchase your residence before it can be sold publicly.
30 A purchase offer describing your right to purchase is included with this notice.

31 (3) If you do not choose to purchase your unit, and the annual income for all
32 present members of your household did not exceed (the income eligibility
33 figure for the appropriate area which equals approximately 80 percent of the median
34 income for your county or standard metropolitan area) for 20...., you are entitled to
35 receive \$375 when you move out of your residence. You are also entitled to be
36 reimbursed for moving expenses as defined in the Maryland Condominium Act over
37 \$375 up to \$750 which are actually and reasonably incurred. If the annual income for
38 all present members of your household did exceed (the income eligibility

1 figure for the appropriate area which equals approximately 80 percent of the median
 2 income for your county or standard metropolitan area) for 20...., you are entitled to be
 3 reimbursed up to \$750 for moving expenses as defined in the Maryland Condominium
 4 Act actually and reasonably incurred. To receive reimbursement for moving expenses,
 5 you must make a written request, accompanied by reasonable evidence of your
 6 expenses, within 30 days after you move. You are entitled to be reimbursed within 30
 7 days after your request has been received.

8 (4) If you want to move out of your residence before the end of the 180-day
 9 period or the end of your lease, you may cancel your lease without penalty by giving
 10 at least 30 days prior written notice. However, once you give notice of when you
 11 intend to move, you will not have the right to remain in your residence beyond that
 12 date.

13 Section 2
 14 Right to 3-year lease extension or 3-month rent payment
 15 for certain [handicapped citizens] INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES and senior
 16 citizens

17 The developer who converts this rental facility to a condominium must offer
 18 extended leases to qualified households for up to 20 percent of the units in the rental
 19 facility. Households which receive extended leases will have the right to continue
 20 renting their residences for at least 3 years from the date of this notice. A household
 21 may cancel an extended lease by giving 3 months' written notice if more than 1 year
 22 remains on the lease, and 1 month's written notice if less than 1 year remains on the
 23 lease.

24 Rents under these extended leases may only be increased once a year and are
 25 limited by increases in the cost of living index. Read the enclosed lease to learn the
 26 additional rights and responsibilities of tenants under extended leases.

27 In determining whether your household qualifies for an extended lease, the
 28 following definitions apply:

29 (1) (I) ["Handicapped citizen" means a person with a measurable limitation
 30 of mobility due to congenital defect, disease, or trauma.] "DISABILITY" MEANS:

31 (I) 1. A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT THAT SUBSTANTIALLY
 32 LIMITS ONE OR MORE OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S MAJOR LIFE ACTIVITIES; OR

33 (II) 2. A RECORD OF HAVING A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT
 34 THAT SUBSTANTIALLY LIMITS ONE OR MORE OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S MAJOR LIFE
 35 ACTIVITIES; ~~OR~~

36 (III) ~~BEING REGARDED AS HAVING A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT~~
 37 ~~THAT SUBSTANTIALLY LIMITS ONE OR MORE OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S MAJOR LIFE~~
 38 ~~ACTIVITIES.~~

39 (II) "DISABILITY" DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CURRENT ILLEGAL USE OF OR
 40 ADDICTION TO:

1 1. A CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE AS DEFINED IN §
2 5-101 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE; OR

3 2. A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AS DEFINED IN 21 U.S.C. § 802.

4 (2) "Senior citizen" means a person who is at least 62 years old on the date of
5 this notice.

6 (3) "Annual income" means the total income from all sources for all present
7 members of your household for the income tax year immediately preceding the year in
8 which this notice is issued but shall not include unreimbursed medical expenses if the
9 tenant provides reasonable evidence of the unreimbursed medical expenses or
10 consents in writing to authorize disclosure of relevant information regarding medical
11 expense reimbursement at the time of applying for an extended lease. "Total income"
12 means the same as "gross income" as defined in § 9-104(a)(7) of the Tax - Property
13 Article.

14 To qualify for an extended lease you must meet all of the following criteria:

15 (1) A member of the household must be [a handicapped citizen] AN
16 INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY or a senior citizen and must be living in your unit as
17 of the date of this notice and must have been a member of your household for at least
18 12 months preceding the date of this notice; and

19 (2) Annual income for all present members of your household must not have
20 exceeded (80 percent of applicable median income) for 20.....; and

21 (3) You must be current in your rental payments and otherwise in good
22 standing under your existing lease.

23 If you meet all of these qualifications and desire an extended lease, then you
24 must complete the enclosed form and execute the enclosed lease and return them. The
25 completed form and executed lease must be received at the office listed below within
26 60 days of the date of this notice, or in other words, by (Date). If your
27 completed form and executed lease are not received within that time, you will not be
28 entitled to an extended lease.

29 If the number of qualified households requesting extended leases exceeds the 20
30 percent limitation, priority will be given to qualified households who have lived in the
31 rental facility for the longest time.

32 Due to the 20 percent limitation your application for an extended lease must be
33 processed prior to your lease becoming final. Your lease will become final if it is
34 determined that your household is qualified and falls within the 20 percent
35 limitation.

36 If you return the enclosed form and lease by (Date) you will be
37 notified within 75 days of the date of this notice, or in other words, by
38 (Date), whether you are qualified and whether your household falls within the 20
39 percent limitation.

1 You may apply for an extended lease and, at the same time, choose to purchase
2 your unit. If you apply for and receive an extended lease, your purchase contract will
3 be void. If you do not receive an extended lease, your purchase contract will be
4 effective and you will be obligated to buy your unit.

5 If you qualify for an extended lease, but due to the 20 percent limitation, your
6 lease is not finalized, the developer must pay you an amount equal to 3 months rent
7 within 15 days after you move. You are also entitled to up to \$750 reimbursement for
8 your moving expenses, as described in Section 1.

9 If you qualify for an extended lease, but do not want one, you are also entitled to
10 both the moving expense reimbursement previously described, and the payment
11 equal to 3 months' rent. In order to receive the 3 month rent payment, you must
12 complete and return the enclosed form within 60 days of the date of this notice or by
13 (Date), but you should not execute the enclosed lease.

14 All application forms, executed leases, and moving expense requests should be
15 addressed or delivered to:

16
17
18"

19 11-137.

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

21 (2) "Annual income" means the total income from all sources, of a
22 designated household, for the income tax year immediately preceding the year in
23 which the notice is given under § 11-102.1 of this title, whether or not included in the
24 definition of gross income for federal or State tax purposes. For purposes of this
25 section, the inclusions and exclusions from annual income are the same as those
26 listed in § 9-104(a)(8) of the Tax - Property Article, "gross income" as that term is
27 defined for the property tax credits for homeowners by reason of income and age, but
28 shall not include unreimbursed medical expenses if the tenant provides reasonable
29 evidence of the unreimbursed medical expenses or consents in writing to authorize
30 disclosure of relevant information regarding medical expense reimbursement at the
31 time of applying for an extended lease.

32 (3) "Designated household" means any of the following households:

33 (i) A household which includes a senior citizen who has been a
34 member of the household for a period of at least 12 months preceding the giving of the
35 notice required by § 11-102.1 of this title; or

36 (ii) A household which includes [a handicapped citizen] AN
37 INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY who has been a member of the household for a period

1 of at least 12 months preceding the giving of the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this
2 title.

3 (4) (I) ["Handicapped citizen" means a person with a measurable
4 limitation of mobility due to congenital defect, disease, or trauma.] "DISABILITY"
5 MEANS:

6 (⊕) 1. A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENT THAT
7 SUBSTANTIALLY LIMITS ONE OR MORE OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S MAJOR LIFE ACTIVITIES;
8 OR

9 (⊕) 2. A RECORD OF HAVING A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL
10 IMPAIRMENT THAT SUBSTANTIALLY LIMITS ONE OR MORE OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S
11 MAJOR LIFE ACTIVITIES;~~OR~~

12 (⊕) ~~BEING REGARDED AS HAVING A PHYSICAL OR MENTAL~~
13 ~~IMPAIRMENT THAT SUBSTANTIALLY LIMITS ONE OR MORE OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S~~
14 ~~MAJOR LIFE ACTIVITIES.~~

15 (II) "DISABILITY" DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CURRENT ILLEGAL USE
16 OF OR ADDICTION TO:

17 1. A CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE AS DEFINED IN
18 § 5-101 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE; OR

19 2. A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE AS DEFINED IN 21 U.S.C. § 802.

20 (5) "Household" means only those persons domiciled in the unit at the
21 time the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this title is given.

22 (6) "Rental facility" means property containing 10 or more dwelling units
23 intended to be leased to persons who occupy the dwellings as their residences.

24 (7) "Senior citizen" means a person who is at least 62 years old on the
25 date that the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this title is given.

26 (b) A developer may not grant a unit in a rental facility occupied by a
27 designated household entitled to receive the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this title
28 without offering to the tenant of the unit a lease extension for a period of at least 3
29 years from the giving of the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this title, if the household
30 meets the following criteria:

31 (1) Had an annual income which did not exceed the income eligibility
32 figure applicable for the county or incorporated municipality in which the rental
33 facility is located, as provided under subsection (n) of this section;

34 (2) Is current in its rent payment and has not violated any other
35 material term of the lease; or

1 (3) Has provided the developer within 60 days after the giving of the
2 notice required by § 11-102.1 of this title with an affidavit under penalty of perjury:

3 (i) Stating that the household is applying for an extended lease
4 under this section;

5 (ii) Setting forth the household's annual income for the calendar
6 year preceding the giving of the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this title together
7 with reasonable supporting documentation of the household income and, where
8 applicable, of unreimbursed medical expenses or a written authorization for
9 disclosure of relevant information regarding medical expense reimbursement by
10 doctors, hospitals, clinics, insurance companies, or similar persons, entities, or
11 organizations that provide medical treatment coverage to the household;

12 (iii) Setting forth facts showing that a member of the household is
13 either [a handicapped citizen] AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY or a senior citizen
14 who, in either event, has been a member of the household for at least 12 months
15 preceding the giving of the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this title; and

16 (iv) Has executed an extended lease and returned it to the developer
17 within 60 days after the giving of the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this title.

18 (c) The developer shall deliver to each tenant entitled to receive the notice
19 required by § 11-102.1 of this title, simultaneously with the notice:

20 (1) An application on which may be included all of the information
21 required by subsection (b)(3) of this section;

22 (2) A lease containing the terms required by this section and clearly
23 indicating that the lease will be effective only if:

24 (i) The tenant executes and returns the lease not later than 60
25 days after the giving of the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this title; and

26 (ii) The household is allocated 1 of the units required to be made
27 available to qualified households based on its ranking under subsection (k) of this
28 section and the number of tenants executing and returning leases;

29 (3) A notice, delivered in the form specified in § 11-102.1(f) of this title,
30 setting forth the rights and obligations of the tenant under this section; and

31 (4) A copy of the public offering statement which is registered with the
32 Secretary of State.

33 (d) Within 75 days after the giving of the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this
34 title, the developer shall notify each household which submits to the developer the
35 documentation required by subsection (b)(3) of this section:

36 (1) Whether the household meets the criteria of subsection (b) of this
37 section, and, if not, an explanation of which criteria have not been met; and

1 (2) Whether the extended lease has become effective.

2 (e) Within 75 days after the giving of the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this
3 title, the developer shall provide to any county, incorporated municipality, or housing
4 agency which has a right to purchase units in the rental facility under § 11-139 of this
5 title:

6 (1) A notice indicating the number of units in the rental facility being
7 made available to qualified households under subsection (k)(1) of this section;

8 (2) A list of all households meeting the criteria of subsection (b) of this
9 section, indicating the ranking of each in relation to that number;

10 (3) A list of all households returning the affidavit required by subsection
11 (b) of this section which do not meet all the criteria of subsection (b) of this section and
12 copies of the notifications sent to these households under subsection (d) of this
13 section; and

14 (4) A list of all households as to whom a lease has become effective.

15 (f) (1) The extended lease shall provide for a term commencing on
16 acceptance and terminating not less than 3 years from the giving of the notice
17 required by § 11-102.1 of this title.

18 (2) Annually, on the commencement date of the extended lease, the
19 rental fee for the unit may be increased. The increase may not exceed an amount
20 determined by multiplying the annual rent for the preceding year by the percentage
21 increase for the rent component of the U.S. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage
22 Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) (1967 = 100), as published by the U.S.
23 Department of Labor, for the most recent 12-month period.

24 (3) Except as this section otherwise permits or requires, the extended
25 lease shall contain the same terms and conditions as the lease in effect on the day
26 preceding the giving of the notice required by § 11-102.1 of this title.

27 (g) A designated household which exercises its rights under this section shall
28 not be denied an opportunity to buy a unit at a later date, if one is available.

29 (h) (1) A designated household which executes an extended lease under this
30 section which is accepted thereafter may not terminate its extended lease under §
31 11-102.1 of this title. A designated household may terminate its extended lease at any
32 time, with notice to the developer or any subsequent titleholder as follows:

33 (i) At least a 1-month notice in writing shall be given when less
34 than 12 months remain on the lease; and

35 (ii) At least a 3-month notice in writing shall be given when 12
36 months or more remain on the lease.

1 (2) Any lease executed under this section shall set forth the provisions
2 for termination contained in this subsection.

3 (i) The title to units subject to the provisions of this section may be granted to
4 a person who is not a member of the designated household, provided that:

5 (1) The provisions of this section continue to apply despite any transfer
6 of title to a unit occupied by a designated household as provided in this section;

7 (2) The designated household is provided written notice of the change of
8 ownership of title by the new titleholder; and

9 (3) The vendor of any such unit provides the purchaser written
10 disclosure that the unit is occupied by a designated household subject to the
11 provisions of this section at the time of or prior to the execution of a contract of sale.

12 (j) The extended tenancy provided for in this section shall cease upon the
13 occurrence of any of the following:

14 (1) 90 days after the death of the last surviving senior citizen or
15 [handicapped citizen] INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY residing in the unit, or 90
16 days after the last senior citizen or [handicapped citizen] INDIVIDUAL WITH A
17 DISABILITY residing in the unit has moved from the unit;

18 (2) Eviction for failure to pay rent due in a timely fashion or violation of
19 a material term of the lease; or

20 (3) Voluntary termination of the lease by the designated household
21 under subsection (h) of this section.

22 (k) (1) A developer shall set aside a percentage of the total number of units
23 within a condominium for designated households. A developer is not required to grant
24 extended leases covering more than 20 percent of the units within a condominium to
25 designated households.

26 (2) (I) If the number of units occupied by designated households which
27 meet the criteria of subsection (b) of this section exceeds 20 percent, then the number
28 of available units for tenancy under the provisions of this section shall be allocated as
29 determined by the local governing body.

30 (II) If the local governing body fails to provide for allocation, then
31 units shall be allocated by the developer; .

32 (III) 1. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS
33 SUBPARAGRAPH, THE DEVELOPER SHALL ALLOCATE THE UNITS based on seniority
34 by continuous length of residence.

35 2. AMONG DESIGNATED HOUSEHOLDS THAT INCLUDE
36 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO HOUSEHOLDS THAT

1 INCLUDE AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT WHO REQUIRES
2 WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE HOUSING.

3 (l) (1) If a conversion to condominium involves substantial rehabilitation or
4 reconstruction of such a nature that the work involved does not permit the continued
5 occupancy of a unit because of danger to the health and safety of the tenants, then
6 any designated household executing an extended lease under the provisions of this
7 section may be required to vacate their unit not earlier than the expiration of the
8 180-day period and to relocate at the expense of the developer in a comparable unit in
9 the rental facility to permit such work to be performed.

10 (2) If there is no comparable unit available, then the designated
11 household may be required to vacate the rental facility. When the work is completed,
12 the developer shall notify the household of its completion. The household shall have
13 30 days from the date of that notice to return to their original or a comparable rental
14 unit. The term of the extended lease of that household shall begin upon their return
15 to the rental unit.

16 (3) The developer shall give 180 days' notice prior to the date that units
17 must be vacated. The notice shall explain the household's rights under this subsection
18 and subsection (m) of this section.

19 (m) (1) The developer shall pay households that qualify as to income under
20 subsection (b)(1) of this section \$375 when the household vacates the unit and for
21 moving expenses as defined in § 11-101 of this title in excess of \$375 up to \$750 which
22 are actually and reasonably incurred. The household shall make a written request for
23 reimbursement accompanied by reasonable evidence of the costs incurred within 30
24 days of moving. The developer shall reimburse the household within 30 days following
25 receipt of the request.

26 (2) If a household does not qualify as to income under subsection (b)(1) of
27 this section, the developer shall reimburse moving expenses as defined in § 11-101 of
28 this title, up to \$750, actually and reasonably incurred to the designated households
29 eligible under this subsection. The designated household shall make a written request
30 for reimbursement accompanied by reasonable evidence of the costs incurred within
31 30 days of moving. The developer shall reimburse the designated household within 30
32 days following receipt of the request.

33 (3) The developer shall also pay a compensation equivalent to 3 months'
34 rent within 15 days of moving to the designated households eligible under this
35 subsection.

36 (4) The following designated households which meet the applicable
37 criteria of subsection (b) of this section are eligible under this subsection:

38 (i) A designated household which does not execute an extended
39 lease;

40 (ii) A designated household which is precluded from having an
41 extended tenancy by the limitation of subsection (k) of this section; or

1 (iii) A designated household which is required to vacate their rental
2 unit under subsection (l)(2) of this section.

3 (5) A developer shall also reimburse moving expenses as defined in §
4 11-101 of this title, up to \$750, actually and reasonably incurred, to a designated
5 household who returns to their rental unit under subsection (l)(2) of this section. The
6 designated household shall make a written request for reimbursement accompanied
7 by reasonable evidence of the costs incurred within 30 days following the designated
8 household's return. The developer shall reimburse the designated household within
9 30 days following receipt of the request.

10 (n) The Secretary of State shall prepare an income eligibility figure for each
11 county and standard metropolitan statistical area of the State, which shall
12 reasonably approximate 80 percent of the median income for each county and
13 standard metropolitan statistical area. A county or incorporated municipality which is
14 in a standard metropolitan statistical area may by ordinance or resolution adopt the
15 income eligibility figure applicable to the county or standard metropolitan statistical
16 area.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to
18 any residential rental facility for which an application for registration has not been
19 filed with the Secretary of State, in accordance with § 11-127 of the Real Property
20 Article, on or before March 15, 2006.

21 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect~~
22 ~~June 1, 2006.~~

23 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
24 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
25 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected
26 to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date
27 it is enacted.