SENATE BILL 622

N1 7lr0861 CF HB 580

By: Senator Gladden Senators Gladden and Stone

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 20, 2007

CHAPTER

1 AN ACT concerning

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Ground Rents - Limitation of Actions - Registry of <u>Properties Subject to</u> Ground Leases

FOR the purpose of authorizing the recordation of a certain ground lease extinguishment certificate under certain circumstances; providing that a ground rent is extinguished if there is no demand or payment for more than a certain number of years of any specific ground rent under certain circumstances; requiring the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to maintain and update regularly on-line registries of landlords and an on-line registry of properties that are subject to ground leases; requiring a landlord ground lease holder to apply to register a ground lease with the Department by submitting a certain registration application form and a certain fee; requiring the Department to register a ground lease under certain circumstances; requiring a landlord ground lease holder to notify the Department of certain information after a ground lease is registered; requiring a landlord ground lease holder to apply to register a ground lease by a certain date; providing for the extinguishment of a ground lease if the ground lease is not registered under certain circumstances; providing for certain considerations and rights if a ground lease is extinguished under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to work with the State Archives for certain purposes regarding ground leases registered under this Act; requiring the Department to credit all

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.

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

1	fees collected under this Act to a certain fund; requiring the Department to						
2	adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act; requiring the						
3	Department to publish a certain notice regarding the registration of ground						
4	leases; requiring the Department to report to the General Assembly on or before						
5	certain dates; requiring the Comptroller of the State to report to the General						
6	Assembly on or before a certain date; defining certain terms; providing for the						
7	application of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to a registry						
8	<u>of properties subject to</u> ground rents <u>leases</u> .						
9	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,						
10	Article – Real Property						
11	Section 3–102(a) and 8–107						
12	Annotated Code of Maryland						
13	(2003 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)						
14	BY adding to						
15	Article – Real Property						
16	Section 8–701 through $8-709 = 8-711$ to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 7.						
17	Registry of Ground Leases"						
18	Annotated Code of Maryland						
19	(2003 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)						
20 21	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:						
22	Article - Real Property						
23	3–102.						
24 25 26	(a) (1) Any other instrument affecting property, including any contract for the grant of property, or any subordination agreement establishing priorities between interests in property may be recorded.						
27	(2) The following instruments also may be recorded:						
28 29	(i) Any notice of deferred property footage assessment for street construction;						
30 31	(ii) Any boundary survey plat signed and sealed by a professional land surveyor or property line surveyor licensed in the State;						

1 2 3	(iii) Any assumption agreement by which a person agrees to assume the liability of a debt or other obligation secured by a mortgage or deed of trust;
4 5	(iv) Any release of personal liability of a borrower or guarantor under a mortgage or under a note or other obligation secured by a deed of trust; or
6 7 8 9	(v) A ground rent redemption certificate or a ground rent extinguishment certificate issued under § 8–110 of this article OR A GROUND LEASE EXTINGUISHMENT CERTIFICATE ISSUED UNDER § 8–707 8–708 OF THIS ARTICLE .
10 11	(3) The recording of any instrument constitutes constructive notice from the date of recording.
12	8–107.
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	(A) If there is no demand or payment for more than 20 consecutive years of any specific rent reserved out of a particular property or any part of a particular property under any form of lease, the rent conclusively is presumed to be extinguished and the landlord may not set up any claim for the rent or to the reversion in the property out of which it issued. The landlord also may not institute any suit, action, or proceeding to recover the rent or the property. However, if the landlord is under any legal disability when the period of 20 years of nondemand or nonpayment expires, the landlord has two years after the removal of the disability within which to assert the landlord's rights.
22 23	(B) (1) (I) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.
24 25 26 27	(II) "GROUND LEASE" MEANS A RESIDENTIAL LEASE OR SUBLEASE IN EFFECT ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2007, THAT HAS AN INITIAL TERM OF 99 YEARS RENEWABLE FOREVER AND IS SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF AN ANNUAL GROUND RENT.
28 29 30	(III) "GROUND RENT" MEANS A RENT ISSUING OUT OF, OR COLLECTIBLE IN CONNECTION WITH, THE REVERSION IN FEE SIMPLE RESERVED IN A GROUND LEASE.
31	(IV) "LANDLORD" MEANS THE HOLDER OF THE

1 2	(V) "TENANT" MEANS THE HOLDER OF THE LEASEHOLD INTEREST UNDER A GROUND LEASE.							
3	(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS							
4	SUBSECTION, IF THERE IS NO DEMAND OR PAYMENT FOR MORE THAN 3							
5 6	CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF ANY SPECIFIC GROUND RENT RESERVED OUT OF A PARTICULAR PROPERTY UNDER A GROUND LEASE:							
7	(I) THE GROUND RENT IS EXTINGUISHED AND THE							
8 9	LANDLORD MAY NOT SET UP ANY CLAIM FOR THE GROUND RENT OR TO THE REVERSION IN THE PROPERTY OUT OF WHICH THE GROUND RENT ISSUED; AND							
10	(H) THE LANDLORD MAY NOT INSTITUTE ANY SUIT, ACTION,							
11 12	OR PROCEEDING AGAINST THE TENANT TO RECOVER THE GROUND RENT OR THE PROPERTY.							
1-								
13	(3) IF THE LANDLORD IS UNDER ANY LEGAL DISABILITY WHEN							
14	THE PERIOD OF 3 YEARS OF NONDEMAND AND NONPAYMENT EXPIRES, THE							
15 16	LANDLORD HAS 2 YEARS AFTER THE REMOVAL OF THE DISABILITY WITHIN WHICH TO ASSERT THE LANDLORD'S RIGHTS.							
17	(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a							
18	GROUND LEASE MAY NOT BE EXTINGUISHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION BEFORE							
19	APRIL 1, 2008.							
20	SUBTITLE 7. REGISTRY OF GROUND LEASES.							
21	8–701.							
22	(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS							
23	INDICATED.							
24	(B) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF							
25	ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION.							
26	(C) "GROUND LEASE" MEANS A RESIDENTIAL LEASE OR SUBLEASE IN							
27	EFFECT ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2007, THAT HAS AN INITIAL TERM OF 99							
28	YEARS RENEWABLE FOREVER AND IS SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF AN ANNUAL							
29	GROUND RENT.							

1	(D) "GROUND RENT" MEANS A RENT ISSUING OUT OF, OR COLLECTIBLE						
2	IN CONNECTION WITH, THE REVERSION IN FEE SIMPLE RESERVED IN A GROUND						
3	LEASE.						
4	(E) "LANDLORD" MEANS THE HOLDER OF THE REVERSIONARY						
5	INTEREST UNDER A GROUND LEASE.						
6	(F) "TENANT" MEANS THE HOLDER OF THE LEASEHOLD INTEREST						
7	UNDER A GROUND-LEASE.						
8	(C) "CURRENT GROUND RENT DEED OF RECORD" MEANS THE						
9	DOCUMENT THAT VESTS TITLE TO THE REVERSIONARY INTEREST IN THE						
10	CURRENT GROUND LEASE HOLDER.						
11	(D) "GROUND LEASE" MEANS A RESIDENTIAL LEASE OR SUBLEASE FOR						
12	A TERM OF YEARS RENEWABLE FOREVER SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF A						
13	PERIODIC GROUND RENT.						
14	(E) (1) "GROUND LEASE HOLDER" MEANS THE HOLDER OF THE						
15	REVERSIONARY INTEREST UNDER A GROUND LEASE.						
16	(2) "GROUND LEASE HOLDER" INCLUDES:						
17	(I) AN AGENT OF THE GROUND LEASE HOLDER; OR						
18	(II) A COMPANY CONTRACTED BY THE GROUND LEASE						
19	HOLDER TO MANAGE GROUND LEASES.						
20	(F) "GROUND RENT" MEANS A RENT ISSUING OUT OF, OR COLLECTIBLE						
21	IN CONNECTION WITH, THE REVERSIONARY INTEREST UNDER A GROUND LEASE.						
22	(G) "LEASEHOLD INTEREST" MEANS THE TENANCY IN REAL PROPERTY						
23	CREATED UNDER A GROUND LEASE.						

- "LEASEHOLD TENANT" MEANS THE HOLDER OF THE LEASEHOLD 1 (H) 2 INTEREST UNDER A GROUND LEASE. 3 8-702. 4 (A) THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES TO RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY THAT WAS OR IS USED, INTENDED TO BE USED, OR AUTHORIZED TO BE USED FOR FOUR OR 5 6 FEWER DWELLING UNITS. 7 **(B)** THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO PROPERTY: 8 **(1)** LEASED FOR BUSINESS, COMMERCIAL, MANUFACTURING, 9 MERCANTILE, OR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES, OR ANY OTHER PURPOSE THAT IS NOT 10 PRIMARILY RESIDENTIAL; 11 IMPROVED OR TO BE IMPROVED BY ANY APARTMENT, 12 CONDOMINIUM, COOPERATIVE, OR OTHER BUILDING FOR MULTIFAMILY USE OF 13 GREATER THAN FOUR DWELLING UNITS; OR 14 **(3)** LEASED FOR DWELLINGS OR MOBILE HOMES THAT ARE ERECTED OR PLACED IN A MOBILE HOME DEVELOPMENT OR MOBILE HOME 15 16 PARK. 17 8–703. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAINTAIN AND UPDATE REGULARLY AN ON-LINE REGISTRIES OF LANDLORDS AND REGISTRY OF PROPERTIES THAT ARE SUBJECT TO GROUND LEASES.
- 18 19 20
- 21 THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMPLETENESS 22 OR ACCURACY OF THE CONTENTS OF THE ON-LINE REGISTRY.
- 23 8-703. 8-704.
- 24 A LANDLORD GROUND LEASE HOLDER SHALL APPLY TO REGISTER A 25 GROUND LEASE WITH THE DEPARTMENT BY SUBMITTING:
- 26 **(1)** A REGISTRATION APPLICATION ON A FORM THAT THE 27 **DEPARTMENT REQUIRES; AND**

1	(2) A \$20 THE REGISTRATION APPLICATION FEE FOR EACH
2	GROUND LEASE AS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.
3	(B) THE REGISTRATION APPLICATION FORM SHALL INCLUDE:
4	(1) THE PREMISE ADDRESS AND TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
5	OF THE PROPERTY FOR WHICH THE GROUND LEASE WAS CREATED;
6	(2) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE LANDLORD GROUND LEASE
7	HOLDER;
8	(3) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE <u>LEASEHOLD</u> TENANT;
9	(4) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THE
10	GROUND RENT PAYMENT IS SENT;
11	(5) THE AMOUNT AND DUE PAYMENT DATES OF THE PAYMENTS
12	FOR THE GROUND RENT INSTALLMENTS;
13	(6) A TO THE BEST OF THE GROUND LEASE HOLDER'S
14	KNOWLEDGE, A STATEMENT OF THE RANGE OF YEARS IN WHICH THE GROUND
15	LEASE WAS CREATED; AND
	/
16	(7) A COPY OF THE LANDLORD'S DEED;
17	(8) (7) THE LIBER AND FOLIO INFORMATION FOR THE LAND
18	RECORDS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE GROUND LEASE WAS RECORDED; AND
19	CURRENT GROUND RENT DEED OF RECORD.
20	(9) A STATEMENT OF ANY NOTIFICATION SENT TO THE TENANT
21	OF ANY PAST DUE GROUND RENT OR A FILING FOR AN EJECTMENT ACTION.
22	(C) THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR A GROUND LEASE PER GROUND LEASE
23	HOLDER IS:
24	(1) \$10 FOR THE FIRST GROUND LEASE; AND
25	(2) FOR EACH ADDITIONAL GROUND LEASE:
26	(I) \$3 BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2008;

1 2	(II) \$4 ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2008 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2009; AND
-	
3	(III) \$5 ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2009.
4	8-704. <u>8-705.</u>
5	(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REGISTER A GROUND LEASE # WHEN
6	THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES:
7	(1) Is satisfied that a $\underline{\mathbf{A}}$ registration application is
8	COMPLETE FORM; AND
9	(2) Receives the \$20 registration application The
10	APPROPRIATE REGISTRATION FEE FOR EACH GROUND LEASE.
11	(B) (1) IF FOR ANY REASON THE DEPARTMENT IS UNABLE TO
12	REGISTER A GROUND LEASE FOR WHICH A REGISTRATION FORM AND
13	APPROPRIATE FEE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY
14	THE GROUND LEASE HOLDER OF THAT GROUND LEASE, WITHIN 30 DAYS OF
15 16	PROCESSING THE REGISTRATION FORM, OF ANY INFORMATION NEEDED BY THE DEPARTMENT SO AS TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION.
10	DEFARTMENT SO AS TO COME LETE THE REGISTRATION.
17	(2) THE GROUND LEASE HOLDER SHALL HAVE UP TO 30 DAYS TO
18	SUPPLY THE NEEDED INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE ANY ACTION
19	MAY BE TAKEN UNDER § 8–708 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
20	8-705. <u>8-706.</u>
21	(A) AFTER A GROUND LEASE IS REGISTERED, THE LANDLORD GROUND
22	LEASE HOLDER SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF:
23	(1) A CHANGE IN THE NAME OR ADDRESS OF THE LANDLORD
24	GROUND LEASE HOLDER, LEASEHOLD TENANT, OR PERSON TO WHOM THE
25	GROUND RENT PAYMENT IS SENT;
26	(2) A STATEMENT OF ANY NOTIFICATION SENT TO THE TENANT
27	OF ANY PAST DUE GROUND RENT OR A FILING FOR AN EJECTMENT ACTION;

- 1 (3) (2) A REDEMPTION OF THE GROUND LEASE; AND
- 2 (4)(3) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT 3 REQUIRES.
- 4 (B) FOR EACH NOTIFICATION MADE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE 5 LANDLORD SHALL PAY A \$5 FEE.
- 6 **8–706. 8–707.**
- 7 (A) (1) FOR A GROUND LEASE CREATED BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2007,
 8 THE LANDLORD SHALL APPLY TO REGISTER THE EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN
 9 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A GROUND LEASE HOLDER SHALL REGISTER
 10 A GROUND LEASE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2010.
- 12 **(2)** FOR A GROUND LEASE CREATED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1,
 12 2007, THE LANDLORD SHALL APPLY TO REGISTER THE GROUND LEASE UNDER
 13 THIS SUBTITLE WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF THE DATE OF THE EXECUTION OF THE
 14 GROUND LEASE.
- 15 (B) If A LANDLORD GROUND LEASE HOLDER IS UNDER A LEGAL
 16 DISABILITY AT THE EXPIRATION OF THE REGISTRATION PERIOD UNDER
 17 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE LANDLORD GROUND LEASE HOLDER
 18 HAS 2 YEARS AFTER THE REMOVAL OF THE DISABILITY TO APPLY TO REGISTER
 19 THE GROUND LEASE.
- 20 8-707. 8-708.
- 21 (A) If A <u>LANDLORD</u> <u>GROUND LEASE HOLDER</u> DOES NOT SATISFY THE
 22 REQUIREMENTS OF § <u>8-706</u> <u>8-707</u> OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE REVERSIONARY
 23 INTEREST OF THE <u>LANDLORD</u> <u>GROUND LEASE HOLDER</u> UNDER THE GROUND
 24 LEASE IS EXTINGUISHED AND GROUND RENT IS NO LONGER PAYABLE TO THE
 25 <u>LANDLORD</u> GROUND LEASE HOLDER.
- 26 (B) If A GROUND LEASE IS EXTINGUISHED UNDER THIS SECTION, ON 27 APPLICATION OF A <u>LEASEHOLD</u> TENANT, THE <u>DEPARTMENT SHALL</u> ISSUE TO 28 THE LEASEHOLD TENANT A GROUND LEASE EXTINGUISHMENT CERTIFICATE.
- 29 (C) THE EXTINGUISHMENT OF THE GROUND LEASE IS EFFECTIVE TO 30 CONCLUSIVELY VEST A FEE SIMPLE TITLE IN THE LEASEHOLD TENANT, FREE

1	AND	CLEAR OF	' ANY AND) ALL RIGHT	, TITLE, OR	INTEREST	\mathbf{OF}	THE LANDLORE

- 2 GROUND LEASE HOLDER, ANY LIEN OF A CREDITOR OF THE LANDLORD GROUND
- 3 LEASE HOLDER, AND ANY PERSON CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, OR UNDER THE
- 4 LANDLORD GROUND LEASE HOLDER WHEN THE LEASEHOLD TENANT RECORDS
- 5 THE CERTIFICATE IN THE LAND RECORDS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE
- 6 PROPERTY IS LOCATED.
- 7 (D) TO THE EXTENT THAT THE EXTINGUISHMENT OF A GROUND LEASE
- 8 UNDER THIS SECTION CREATES INCOME FOR THE LEASEHOLD TENANT, THAT
- 9 INCOME MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED IN THE CALCULATION OF INCOME FOR THE
- 10 PURPOSES OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR ANY STATE OR LOCAL PROGRAM.
- 11 (E) IF THE LEGAL DISABILITY OF A GROUND LEASE HOLDER IS
- 12 REMOVED AFTER A GROUND LEASE IS EXTINGUISHED UNDER THIS SECTION:
- 13 (1) IF THE GROUND LEASE EXTINGUISHMENT CERTIFICATE HAS
- 14 BEEN RECORDED, THE GROUND LEASE HOLDER:
- 15 (I) IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FROM THE FORMER
- 16 LEASEHOLD TENANT THE REDEMPTION VALUE OF THE GROUND LEASE; AND
- 17 (II) HAS NO CLAIM ON THE PROPERTY THAT HAD BEEN
- 18 SUBJECT TO THE GROUND LEASE; AND
- 19 (2) IF THE GROUND LEASE EXTINGUISHMENT CERTIFICATE HAS
- 20 NOT BEEN RECORDED, THE GROUND LEASE HOLDER:
- 21 (I) MAY REINSTATE THE GROUND LEASE BY REGISTERING
- 22 THE GROUND LEASE WITH THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 2 YEARS AFTER THE
- 23 REMOVAL OF THE LEGAL DISABILITY; AND
- 24 (II) IS NOT ENTITLED TO GROUND RENT FOR THE PERIOD
- 25 **OF THE LEGAL DISABILITY.**
- 26 (F) IF A GROUND LEASE IS EXTINGUISHED UNDER THIS SECTION AND A
- 27 GROUND LEASE EXTINGUISHMENT CERTIFICATE HAS NOT BEEN RECORDED, A
- 28 BUYER OF THE PROPERTY FOR WHICH THE GROUND LEASE HAS BEEN
- 29 **EXTINGUISHED:**

- MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR A GROUND LEASE 1 **(1)** 2 EXTINGUISHMENT CERTIFICATE AND FILE THE CERTIFICATE IN THE LAND 3 RECORDS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED; AND 4 **(2)** MAY NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY ANY SECURITY OR ANY 5 AMOUNT INTO AN ESCROW ACCOUNT FOR THE EXTINGUISHED GROUND LEASE. 6 8-708. 8-709. 7 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL WORK WITH THE STATE ARCHIVES TO 8 COORDINATE THE RECORDATION, INDEXING, AND LINKING OF GROUND LEASES 9 REGISTERED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE. 10 <u>8–710.</u> THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREDIT ALL FEES COLLECTED UNDER THIS 11 12 SUBTITLE TO THE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 1–203.3 13 CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS ARTICLE. FEES RECEIVED SHALL BE HELD 14 IN A GROUND LEASE REGISTRY ACCOUNT IN THAT FUND. 15 8-709. 8-711. 16 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS 17 SUBTITLE. SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, through September 30, 18 2010, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation shall publish notice of the 19 registration requirements under this Act in at least semiannual advertisements of at 20 least a quarter-page size in a newspaper of general circulation in Baltimore City and 21 22 each county in which ground rents are located. SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the State Department of 23 Assessments and Taxation shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 24 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on or before December 31, 2007, and on or 25 before December 31, 2008, on the implementation of this Act, including 26
- SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Comptroller of the State shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, on or before December 31, 2007, on recommendations regarding

registration requirements established under this Act.

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recommendations on the provision of notification to ground lease holders about the

the provision of notification by the Comptroller to ground lease holders about the 1 registration requirements with the State Department of Assessments and Taxation 2 established under this Act, including providing notification in the yearly State income 3 tax instruction booklet. 4 5 SECTION 2. 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take 6 effect October 1, 2007. Approved:

President of the Senate.

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.