

SENATE BILL 555

N1

8lr3189
CF HB 494

By: **Senator Hough**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2018

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Safe Neighborhoods Act**

3 FOR the purpose of reducing the number of days' notice that a landlord must give to evict
4 a tenant for a breach of the lease that involves certain dangerous behavior; reducing
5 the amount of time after entry of a certain judgment during which a certain party
6 may appeal to the circuit court in an eviction proceeding based on a breach of the
7 lease that involves certain dangerous behavior; making technical and stylistic
8 changes; and generally relating to expedited eviction proceedings.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Real Property
11 Section 8–402.1
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Real Property**

17 8–402.1.

18 (a) (1) (i) Where an unexpired lease for a stated term provides that the
19 landlord may repossess the premises prior to the expiration of the stated term if the tenant
20 breaches the lease, the landlord may make complaint in writing to the District Court of the
21 county where the premises is located if:

22 1. The tenant breaches the lease;

23 2. A. The landlord has given the tenant 30 days' written
24 notice that the tenant is in violation of the lease and the landlord desires to repossess the

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 leased premises; or

2 B. The breach of the lease involves behavior by a tenant or a
3 person who is on the property with the tenant's consent, which demonstrates a clear and
4 imminent danger of the tenant or person doing serious harm to themselves, other tenants,
5 the landlord, the landlord's property or representatives, or any other person on the property
6 and the landlord has given the tenant or person in possession [14] 7 days' written notice
7 that the tenant or person in possession is in violation of the lease and the landlord desires
8 to repossess the leased premises; and

9 3. The tenant or person in actual possession of the premises
10 refuses to comply.

11 (ii) The court shall summons immediately the tenant or person in
12 possession to appear before the court on a day stated in the summons to show cause, if any,
13 why restitution of the possession of the leased premises should not be made to the landlord.

14 (2) (i) If, for any reason, the tenant or person in actual possession
15 cannot be found, the constable or sheriff shall affix an attested copy of the summons
16 conspicuously on the property.

17 (ii) After notice is sent to the tenant or person in possession by
18 first-class mail, the affixing of the summons on the property shall be conclusively presumed
19 to be a sufficient service to support restitution.

20 (3) If either of the parties fails to appear before the court on the day stated
21 in the summons, the court may continue the case for not less than [six] 6 nor more than 10
22 days and notify the parties of the continuance.

23 (b) (1) **(I)** If the court determines that the tenant breached the terms of the
24 lease and that the breach was substantial and warrants an eviction, the court shall give
25 judgment for the restitution of the possession of the premises and issue its warrant to the
26 sheriff or a constable commanding the tenant to deliver possession to the landlord in as full
27 and ample manner as the landlord was possessed of the same at the time when the lease
28 was entered into.

29 **(II)** The court shall give judgment for costs against the tenant or
30 person in possession.

31 (2) **(I)** Either party may appeal to the circuit court for the county[,
32 within ten days from entry of the judgment. If]:

33 **1. WITHIN 4 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF THE JUDGMENT, IN**
34 **AN EVICTION PROCEEDING BASED ON A BREACH OF LEASE THAT INVOLVES**
35 **BEHAVIOR BY A TENANT OR A PERSON WHO IS ON THE PROPERTY WITH THE**
36 **TENANT'S CONSENT, WHICH DEMONSTRATES A CLEAR AND IMMINENT DANGER OF**

1 THE TENANT OR PERSON DOING SERIOUS HARM TO THEMSELVES, OTHER TENANTS,
2 THE LANDLORD, THE LANDLORD'S PROPERTY OR REPRESENTATIVES, OR ANY
3 OTHER PERSON ON THE PROPERTY; OR

4 2. WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF THE JUDGMENT, IN
5 AN EVICTION PROCEEDING BASED ON ANY OTHER BREACH OF THE LEASE.

6 (II) THE TENANT OR PERSON IN POSSESSION OF THE PREMISES
7 MAY RETAIN POSSESSION UNTIL THE DETERMINATION OF THE APPEAL IF the tenant
8 [(i) files]:

9 1. FILES with the District Court an affidavit that the appeal
10 is not taken for delay; [(ii) files]

11 2. FILES sufficient bond with one or more securities
12 conditioned upon diligent prosecution of the appeal; [(iii) pays]

13 3. PAYS all rent in arrears, all court costs in the case; and
14 [(iv) pays]

15 4. PAYS all losses or damages which the landlord may suffer
16 by reason of the tenant's holding over[, the tenant or person in possession of the premises
17 may retain possession until the determination of the appeal].

18 (III) Upon application of either party, the court shall set a day for the
19 hearing of the appeal not less than [five] 5 nor more than 15 days after the application,
20 and notice of the order for a hearing shall be served on the other party or that party's
21 counsel at least [five] 5 days before the hearing.

22 (IV) If the judgment of the District Court is in favor of the landlord, a
23 warrant shall be issued by the court which hears the appeal to the sheriff, who shall execute
24 the warrant.

25 (c) (1) Acceptance of any payment after notice but before eviction shall not
26 operate as a waiver of any notice of breach of lease or any judgment for possession unless
27 the parties specifically otherwise agree in writing.

28 (2) Any payment accepted shall be first applied to the rent or the
29 equivalent of rent apportioned to the date that the landlord actually recovers possession of
30 the premises, then to court costs, including court awarded damages and legal fees and then
31 to any loss of rent caused by the breach of lease.

32 (3) Any payment which is accepted in excess of the rent referred to in
33 paragraph (2) of this subsection shall not bear interest but will be returned to the tenant
34 in the same manner as security deposits as defined under § 8-203 of this title but shall not

1 be subject to the penalties of that section.

2 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
3 1, 2018.