

HOUSE BILL 970

N1

4lr2469

By: **Delegate Wells**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Real Property – Residential Leases – Rent Increase Prohibition**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a landlord from increasing a tenant’s rent if the landlord
4 violates certain notification requirements or retaliating against a tenant because of
5 the prohibition against raising rent under this Act; and generally relating to a rent
6 increase prohibition for residential leases.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Real Property
9 Section 8–209
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2023 Replacement Volume)

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

14 **Article – Real Property**

15 8–209.

16 (a) (1) This section applies only to a residential lease.

17 (2) This section does not apply to a landlord who has provided written
18 notice of the intent to terminate a tenancy in accordance with § 8–402(c)(2) of this [article]
19 **TITLE.**

20 (b) (1) A landlord shall notify a tenant in writing before increasing the tenant’s
21 rent.

22 (2) (i) The notice required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 1. Be sent by first-class mail with a certificate of mailing; or

2 2. If elected by the tenant, sent by electronic delivery in at
3 least one of the following forms:

4 A. An e-mail message;

5 B. A text message; or

6 C. Through an electronic tenant portal.

7 (ii) The electronic delivery method shall provide the landlord with
8 proof of transmission of the notice.

9 (iii) A landlord may not condition the acceptance of a lease
10 application on the tenant's election to receive notice under this subsection by electronic
11 delivery.

12 (3) A landlord shall provide the notice required under paragraph (1) of this
13 subsection:

14 (i) For tenancies for a term of more than 1 month, at least 90 days
15 in advance of the rent increase;

16 (ii) For tenancies for a term of more than 1 week, but not more than
17 1 month, at least 60 days in advance of the rent increase; and

18 (iii) For tenancies for a term of 1 week or less:

19 1. At least 7 days in advance of the rent increase if the
20 parties have a written lease; or

21 2. At least 21 days in advance of the rent increase if the
22 parties do not have a written lease.

23 (c) **A LANDLORD THAT VIOLATES THIS SECTION MAY NOT:**

24 **(1) INCREASE A TENANT'S RENT; OR**

25 **(2) TAKE ANY RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST A TENANT, INCLUDING**
26 **REFUSING TO RENEW A LEASE, BECAUSE OF THE PROHIBITION AGAINST AN**
27 **INCREASE IN RENT IN ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

28 **(D)** This section does not affect or supersede any local law or ordinance that
29 requires additional notice or provides additional tenant protections.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2024.