

HOUSE BILL 979

I4

5r1710
CF 5r1813

By: **Delegates A. Johnson, S. Johnson, Lopez, McCaskill, Stein, and Woorman**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 25, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Self-Service Storage Act – Sale of Personal Property in Satisfaction of**
3 **Lien – Notice Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a certain operator of a certain self-service storage facility to
5 notify a certain occupant in a certain manner before conducting a sale of the
6 occupant's personal property stored in certain leased space at the self-service
7 storage facility; and generally relating to enforcement of liens on personal property
8 stored in self-service storage facilities.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Commercial Law
11 Section 18–504(a) and (c)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Commercial Law
16 Section 18–504(b) and (d)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Commercial Law**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

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



1 18-504.

2 (a) (1) If the occupant is in default for a period of more than 60 days, the
3 operator may enforce the lien by selling the personal property stored in the leased space at
4 a public sale, for cash.

5 (2) Proceeds from the sale shall be applied to satisfy the lien, and any
6 surplus shall be disbursed as provided in subsection (e) of this section.

7 (b) (1) Before conducting a sale under subsection (a) of this section, the
8 operator shall, subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, notify the occupant of the default
9 by hand delivery, verified mail, or electronic mail at the occupant's last known address.

10 (2) (i) The operator may not notify the occupant of the default by
11 electronic mail unless:

12 1. The rental agreement, or a written change to the rental
13 agreement, specifies, in bold type, that notice may be given by electronic mail; and

14 2. The occupant provides the occupant's initials next to the
15 statement in the rental agreement specifying that notice of default may be given by
16 electronic mail.

17 (ii) If the operator notifies the occupant of the default by electronic
18 mail at the occupant's last known address and does not receive a response [or a
19 confirmation of delivery] sent from the occupant's electronic mail address **OR A**
20 **CONFIRMATION OF DELIVERY**, the operator shall send a second notice of default to the
21 occupant by verified mail to the occupant's last known postal address.

22 (3) The notice shall include:

23 (i) A statement that the contents of the occupant's leased space are
24 subject to the operator's lien;

25 (ii) A statement of the operator's claim, indicating the charges due
26 on the date of the notice, the amount of any additional charges which shall become due
27 before the date of sale, and the date those additional charges shall become due;

28 (iii) A demand for payment of the charges due within a specified time,
29 not less than 14 days after the date that the notice was mailed;

30 (iv) A statement that unless the claim is paid within the time stated,
31 the contents of the occupant's space will be sold at a specified time and place; and

32 (v) The name, street address, and telephone number of the operator,
33 or his designated agent, whom the occupant may contact to respond to the notice.

1 (4) **(I)** **SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AT**
2 **LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE CONDUCTING A SALE UNDER THIS SECTION, THE OPERATOR**
3 **SHALL NOTIFY THE OCCUPANT OF THE TIME, PLACE, AND TERMS OF THE SALE BY**
4 **HAND DELIVERY, VERIFIED MAIL, OR ELECTRONIC MAIL AT THE OCCUPANT’S LAST**
5 **KNOWN ADDRESS.**

6 **(II)** **IF AN OPERATOR NOTIFIES THE OCCUPANT OF THE SALE BY**
7 **ELECTRONIC MAIL AT THE OCCUPANT’S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS AND DOES NOT**
8 **RECEIVE A RESPONSE SENT FROM THE OCCUPANT’S ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS OR**
9 **A CONFIRMATION OF DELIVERY AT LEAST 5 DAYS BEFORE THE SALE, THE OPERATOR**
10 **SHALL PROMPTLY SEND A SECOND NOTICE OF SALE TO THE OCCUPANT BY VERIFIED**
11 **MAIL TO THE OCCUPANT’S LAST KNOWN POSTAL ADDRESS.**

12 **(5)** At least 3 days before conducting a sale under this section, the operator
13 shall advertise the time, place, and terms of the sale:

14 (i) In a newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdiction where
15 the sale is to be held;

16 (ii) By electronic mail; or

17 (iii) On an online website.

18 (c) At any time before a sale under this section, the occupant may pay the amount
19 necessary to satisfy the lien and redeem the occupant’s personal property.

20 (d) (1) A sale under this section shall be held at the self–service storage facility
21 where the personal property is stored.

22 (2) A sale under this section shall be deemed to be held at the self–service
23 storage facility where the personal property is stored if the sale is held on an online auction
24 **[Web site] WEBSITE.**

25 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**
26 **1, 2025.**