

Chapter 215

(Senate Bill 438)

AN ACT concerning

Commercial Law – Self-Service Storage Facilities – Alterations

FOR the purpose of providing for the use of an electronic rental agreement in the rental of self-service storage facilities; prohibiting an occupant from using the occupant's self-service storage facility beyond the term of a rental agreement after delivery of a notice of nonrenewal; requiring an operator to give an occupant a certain number of days after delivery of a notice of nonrenewal to remove the occupant's personal property from the self-service storage facility; authorizing an operator to dispose of an occupant's remaining personal property after a certain amount of time has elapsed; requiring an operator to give an occupant notice of intent to dispose of the occupant's personal property a certain number of days before the operator disposes of that personal property; requiring an operator to include a certain statement in a rental agreement concerning the removal of personal property from the self-service storage facility after nonrenewal of the rental agreement; and generally relating to self-service storage facilities.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Commercial Law
 Section 18–501 ~~and~~, 18–502, and 18–503
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2025 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Commercial Law

18–501.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “Default” means the failure to perform on time any obligation or duty set forth in the rental agreement.
- (c) “Last known address” means that address or electronic mail address provided by the occupant in the rental agreement or the address or electronic mail address provided by the occupant in a subsequent written notice of a change of address.
- (d) “Leased space” means the individual storage space at the self-service facility which is rented to an occupant pursuant to a rental agreement.

(e) “Occupant” means a person, a sublessee, successor, or assign, entitled to the use of a leased space at a self-service storage facility under a rental agreement.

(f) (1) “Operator” means the owner, operator, lessor, or sublessor of a self-service storage facility, an agent, or any other person authorized to manage the facility.

(2) “Operator” does not include a warehouseman, unless the operator issues a warehouse receipt, bill of lading, or other document of title for the personal property stored.

(g) (1) “Personal property” means movable property, not affixed to land.

(2) “Personal property” includes goods, wares, merchandise, motor vehicles, watercraft, and household items and furnishings.

(h) “Rental agreement” means any written **OR ELECTRONIC** agreement that establishes or modifies the terms, conditions, or rules concerning the use and occupancy of a self-service storage facility.

(i) “Self-service storage facility” means any real property used for renting or leasing individual storage spaces in which the occupants themselves customarily store and remove their own personal property on a “self-service” basis.

(j) “Verified mail” means any method of mailing that is offered by the United States Postal Service or private delivery service that provides evidence of mailing.

18-502.

(a) An operator may not knowingly permit a leased space at a self-service storage facility to be used for residential purposes.

(b) An occupant may not use a leased space for residential purposes.

(C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ~~SUBSECTION~~ SUBSECTIONS (D) AND (E) OF THIS SECTION, AN OCCUPANT MAY NOT USE A SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY BEYOND THE TERM OF A RENTAL AGREEMENT AFTER THE OPERATOR OR OCCUPANT HAS DELIVERED IN PERSON, BY E-MAIL, OR BY VERIFIED MAIL WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE NONRENEWAL OF THE RENTAL AGREEMENT.

(2) IF AN OPERATOR NOTIFIES THE OCCUPANT OF THE NONRENEWAL BY E-MAIL AT THE OCCUPANT’S LAST KNOWN E-MAIL ADDRESS AND DOES NOT RECEIVE A RESPONSE SENT FROM THE OCCUPANT’S E-MAIL ADDRESS OR A CONFIRMATION OF DELIVERY WITHIN 5 DAYS AFTER DELIVERY, THE OPERATOR SHALL PROMPTLY SEND A SECOND NOTICE OF NONRENEWAL TO THE OCCUPANT BY VERIFIED MAIL TO THE OCCUPANT’S LAST KNOWN POSTAL ADDRESS.

(D) THE OPERATOR SHALL PROVIDE THE OCCUPANT WITH NOT LESS THAN 30 DAYS AFTER DELIVERY OF THE NOTICE OF THE NONRENEWAL OF THE RENTAL AGREEMENT AND AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF THE TERM OF THE RENTAL AGREEMENT TO REMOVE ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY FROM THE SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY.

(E) (1) THE OPERATOR MAY NOT DISPOSE OF ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY REMAINING AT THE SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY ~~10 DAYS~~ UNTIL AFTER THE TIME ALLOTTED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION AND PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION HAS ELAPSED.

(2) ~~AT~~ AFTER THE TIME ALLOTTED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION HAS ELAPSED AND AT LEAST 10 DAYS BEFORE DISPOSING OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY REMAINING AT THE SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY, THE OPERATOR SHALL DELIVER IN PERSON, BY E-MAIL, OR BY VERIFIED MAIL A NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISPOSE OF THE OCCUPANT'S PROPERTY.

(3) IF AN OPERATOR NOTIFIES THE OCCUPANT OF THE INTENT TO DISPOSE OF THE PROPERTY BY E-MAIL AT THE OCCUPANT'S LAST KNOWN E-MAIL ADDRESS AND DOES NOT RECEIVE A RESPONSE SENT FROM THE OCCUPANT'S E-MAIL ADDRESS OR A CONFIRMATION OF DELIVERY WITHIN 5 DAYS AFTER DELIVERY, THE OPERATOR SHALL PROMPTLY SEND A SECOND NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISPOSE TO THE OCCUPANT BY VERIFIED MAIL TO THE OCCUPANT'S LAST KNOWN POSTAL ADDRESS.

18-503.

(a) The operator of a self-service storage facility has a lien on all personal property stored within each leased space for rent, labor, or other charges, and for expenses reasonably incurred in its sale, as provided in this subtitle.

(b) The rental agreement shall contain a statement, in bold type, advising the occupant:

(1) Of the existence of the lien;

(2) That personal property stored in the leased space may be sold to satisfy the lien if the occupant is in default;

(3) That personal property stored in the leased space may be towed or removed from the self-service storage facility if:

(i) The personal property is a motor vehicle or watercraft; and

(ii) The occupant is in default for more than 60 days; ~~and~~

(4) That a sale of personal property stored in the leased space to satisfy the lien if the occupant is in default shall be advertised:

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

(ii) By electronic mail; or

(iii) On an online website; *AND*

(5) THAT IF THE OPERATOR DOES NOT RENEW THE RENTAL AGREEMENT, THE OPERATOR SHALL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 18-502 OF THIS SUBTITLE, DELIVER WRITTEN NOTICE ADVISING THE OCCUPANT TO REMOVE ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY FROM THE SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY BY THE DATE STATED IN THE NOTICE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, April 28, 2026.