

# SENATE BILL 654

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~~EMERGENCY BILL~~

0lr2271  
CF HB 711

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By: **Senators Lenett, Gladden, Muse, and Raskin**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2010

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 26, 2010

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Real Property – Tenants in Foreclosure – Conforming to Federal Law**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that an immediate successor in interest who has  
4 acquired legal title to certain residential property pursuant to a foreclosure  
5 shall assume the interest subject to the provision of a certain notice to vacate  
6 and certain rights of a certain bona fide tenant; establishing the circumstances  
7 under which a lease or tenancy shall be considered bona fide; authorizing  
8 termination of a lease if the purchaser will occupy the property as the  
9 purchaser's primary residence; establishing certain requirements for a notice to  
10 vacate; providing for the construction of a certain provision of this Act; altering  
11 the contents of certain notices required to be sent to occupants of certain  
12 residential property in foreclosure; ~~requiring a certain notice to be sent to~~  
13 ~~certain persons if a foreclosure action is dismissed, withdrawn, or terminated;~~  
14 ~~defining a certain term; making this Act an emergency measure~~ providing for  
15 the application of this Act; and generally relating to tenants in foreclosure.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

17 Article – Real Property

18 Section 7–105.6 and 7–105.9

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

21 Preamble

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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 WHEREAS, President Obama signed the Helping Families Save Their Homes  
2 Act (Public Law No: 111-22) into law on May 20, 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, The new federal law preempts Chapter 615 of the Acts of the  
4 General Assembly of 2009, making it necessary to make changes to conform to the  
5 federal requirements; now, therefore,

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

8 **Article – Real Property**

9 7-105.6.

10 (a) [Any] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION,**  
11 ANY purchaser at a foreclosure sale of a mortgage or deed of trust has the same rights  
12 and remedies against the tenants of the mortgagor or grantor as the mortgagor or  
13 grantor had, and the tenants have the same rights and remedies against the  
14 purchaser as they would have had against the mortgagor or grantor on the date the  
15 mortgage or deed of trust was recorded.

16 **(B) (1) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION, A LEASE OR TENANCY**  
17 **SHALL BE CONSIDERED “BONA FIDE” ONLY IF:**

18 **(I) THE MORTGAGOR OR GRANTOR OR THE CHILD, SPOUSE,**  
19 **OR PARENT OF THE MORTGAGOR OR GRANTOR UNDER THE CONTRACT IS NOT**  
20 **THE TENANT;**

21 **(II) THE LEASE OR TENANCY WAS THE RESULT OF AN ARM’S**  
22 **LENGTH TRANSACTION; AND**

23 **(III) THE LEASE OR TENANCY REQUIRES THE RECEIPT OF**  
24 **RENT THAT IS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN FAIR MARKET RENT FOR THE**  
25 **PROPERTY OR THE UNIT’S RENT IS REDUCED OR SUBSIDIZED DUE TO A**  
26 **FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL SUBSIDY.**

27 **(2) IN THE CASE OF A FORECLOSURE ON ANY RESIDENTIAL**  
28 **PROPERTY, AN IMMEDIATE SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST WHO HAS ACQUIRED**  
29 **LEGAL TITLE TO THE PROPERTY UNDER THE FORECLOSURE SHALL ASSUME THE**  
30 **INTEREST SUBJECT TO:**

31 **(I) THE PROVISION BY THE SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST OF A**  
32 **NOTICE TO VACATE TO ANY BONA FIDE TENANT AT LEAST 90 DAYS BEFORE THE**  
33 **EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE NOTICE; AND**

1                   **(II) THE RIGHTS OF ANY BONA FIDE TENANT AS OF THE**  
2 **DATE OF TRANSFER OF LEGAL TITLE UNDER THE FORECLOSURE:**

3                   **1. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS**  
4 **SUBSECTION, UNDER A BONA FIDE LEASE ENTERED INTO BEFORE THE**  
5 **TRANSFER OF LEGAL TITLE, TO OCCUPY THE PREMISES UNTIL THE END OF THE**  
6 **REMAINING TERM OF THE LEASE; OR**

7                   **2. WITHOUT A LEASE OR WITH A LEASE TERMINABLE**  
8 **AT WILL UNDER STATE LAW, SUBJECT TO THE RECEIPT BY THE TENANT OF THE**  
9 **NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

10                   **(3) SUBJECT TO THE RECEIPT BY THE TENANT OF THE NOTICE TO**  
11 **VACATE UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A SUCCESSOR IN**  
12 **INTEREST MAY TERMINATE A LEASE EFFECTIVE ON THE DATE OF THE SALE OF**  
13 **THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TO A PURCHASER WHO WILL OCCUPY THE**  
14 **PROPERTY AS THE PURCHASER'S PRIMARY RESIDENCE.**

15                   **(4) THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS**  
16 **SUBSECTION SHALL:**

17                   **(I) BE IN WRITING;**

18                   **(II) BE SENT BY FIRST-CLASS AND CERTIFIED MAIL,**  
19 **RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED;**

20                   **(III) STATE THE DATE ON WHICH THE NOTICE IS BEING**  
21 **GIVEN;**

22                   **(IV) STATE THE DATE ON WHICH THE TERMINATION OF THE**  
23 **TENANCY IS EFFECTIVE; AND**

24                   **(V) STATE WHETHER THE BASIS FOR TERMINATION OF THE**  
25 **TENANCY IS:**

26                   **1. EXPIRATION OF THE TERM OF THE LEASE;**

27                   **2. SALE OF THE PROPERTY TO A PURCHASER WHO**  
28 **WILL OCCUPY THE PROPERTY AS THE PURCHASER'S PRIMARY RESIDENCE; OR**

29                   **3. TERMINATION OF A MONTH-TO-MONTH OR**  
30 **OTHER TERMINABLE-AT-WILL TENANCY.**

31                   **(5) THIS SECTION DOES NOT AFFECT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR**  
32 **TERMINATION OF ANY FEDERAL- OR STATE-SUBSIDIZED TENANCY OR OF ANY**

1 **STATE OR LOCAL LAW THAT PROVIDES LONGER TIME PERIODS OR ADDITIONAL**  
 2 **PROTECTION FOR TENANTS.**

3 **[(b)] (C)** (1) If the required advertisement of sale so discloses, a  
 4 foreclosure sale shall be made subject to one or more of the tenancies entered into  
 5 subsequent to the recording of the mortgage or deed of trust or otherwise subordinated  
 6 thereto.

7 (2) Any lease so continuing is unaffected by the sale, except the  
 8 purchaser shall become the landlord, as of the date of the sale, on ratification of the  
 9 sale.

10 7-105.9.

11 (a) **(1)** In this section[, “residential property”] **THE FOLLOWING WORDS**  
 12 **HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

13 **(2) “BONA FIDE TENANT” MEANS A TENANT UNDER A LEASE OR**  
 14 **TENANCY DESCRIBED IN § 7-105.6(B)(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

15 **(3) “RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY”** has the meaning stated in § 7-105.1  
 16 of this subtitle.

17 (b) (1) In addition to any other notice required to be given by this Code or  
 18 the Maryland Rules, the person authorized to make a sale in an action to foreclose a  
 19 mortgage or deed of trust on residential property shall send, at the same time as the  
 20 notice required by § 7-105.1(d)(2)(vii) of this subtitle, a written notice addressed to “all  
 21 occupants” at the address of the residential property in substantially the following  
 22 form:

23 **“IMPORTANT NOTICE**

24 A foreclosure action has been filed against the property located at (insert  
 25 address) in the circuit court for (insert name of county). This notice is being sent to you  
 26 as a person who lives in this property. ~~IF YOU ARE RENTING THE PROPERTY NOW,~~  
 27 ~~YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE RENTING THE PROPERTY EVEN AFTER~~  
 28 ~~THE PROPERTY IS SOLD TO A NEW OWNER THROUGH A FORECLOSURE SALE.~~

29 A foreclosure sale of the property may occur at any time after 45 days from the  
 30 date of this notice. ~~You may want to consult with an attorney [because if a foreclosure~~  
 31 ~~sale of the property occurs, YOU COULD BE EVICTED, even if you are a tenant and~~  
 32 ~~even if you have paid the rent due and complied with your lease] TO DETERMINE~~  
 33 ~~WHETHER YOU ARE A BONA FIDE TENANT WITH THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE~~  
 34 ~~RENTING THE PROPERTY AFTER FORECLOSURE. IF YOU ARE A BONA FIDE~~  
 35 ~~TENANT WITH A LEASE FOR A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT~~  
 36 ~~TO CONTINUE RENTING THE PROPERTY UNTIL THE END OF YOUR LEASE TERM~~

~~OR 90 DAYS AFTER THE NEW LEGAL TITLE HOLDER SENDS YOU A WRITTEN NOTICE TO VACATE, WHICHEVER IS LONGER. THERE IS ONE EXCEPTION TO THIS RIGHT: IF A NEW OWNER INTENDS TO OCCUPY THE PROPERTY AS HIS OR HER PRIMARY RESIDENCE, AFTER ACQUIRING LEGAL TITLE, THE NEW OWNER MAY SEND YOU A WRITTEN NOTICE TO VACATE IN 90 DAYS.~~

~~IF YOU ARE A BONA FIDE TENANT WITH A MONTH TO MONTH OR OTHER TERMINABLE AT WILL TENANCY, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE RENTING THE PROPERTY FOR UP TO 90 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A WRITTEN NOTICE TO VACATE FROM THE NEW OWNER.~~

~~IF YOU ARE NOT A BONA FIDE TENANT AND A FORECLOSURE SALE OF THE PROPERTY OCCURS, YOU COULD BE EVICTED SHORTLY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE, EVEN IF YOU HAVE PAID THE RENT DUE AND COMPLIED WITH YOUR LEASE. MOST RENTERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE RENTING THE PROPERTY AFTER IT IS SOLD AT FORECLOSURE. THE FORECLOSURE SALE PURCHASER BECOMES THE NEW LANDLORD.~~

MOST RENTERS WITH A LEASE FOR A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE RENTING THE PROPERTY UNTIL THE END OF THE LEASE TERM. MOST MONTH-TO-MONTH RENTERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE RENTING THE PROPERTY FOR 90 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A WRITTEN NOTICE TO VACATE FROM THE NEW OWNER.

YOU SHOULD GET LEGAL ADVICE TO DETERMINE IF YOU HAVE THESE RIGHTS.

Below you will find the name, address, and telephone number of the person authorized to sell the property. You may contact this person to **NOTIFY HIM OR HER THAT YOU ARE A TENANT AT THE PROPERTY AND TO** find out more about the sale. For further information, you may review the file in the office of the clerk of the circuit court. You also may contact the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, at (insert telephone number), or consult the Department’s website, (insert website address), for assistance.

Person authorized to sell the property:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Date of this notice”.

3 (2) The written notice required by this subsection shall be:

4 (i) A separate document;

5 (ii) Printed in at least 12 point type; and

6 (iii) Sent by first-class mail.

7 (3) The outside of the envelope containing the written notice required  
8 by this subsection shall state, on the address side, in bold, capitalized letters in at  
9 least 12 point type, the following: “IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL OCCUPANTS:  
10 FORECLOSURE INFORMATION ENCLOSED. OPEN IMMEDIATELY.”.

11 (c) (1) In addition to any other notice required to be given by this Code or  
12 the Maryland Rules, the person authorized to make a sale in an action to foreclose a  
13 mortgage or deed of trust on residential property shall send a written notice of the sale  
14 not earlier than 30 days and not later than 10 days before the date of sale addressed to  
15 “all occupants” at the address of the residential property in substantially the following  
16 form:

17 “NOTICE OF IMPENDING FORECLOSURE SALE

18 A foreclosure action has been filed against the property located at (insert  
19 address) in the circuit court for (insert name of county). This notice is being sent to you  
20 as a person who lives in this property. ~~IF YOU ARE RENTING THE PROPERTY NOW,~~  
21 ~~YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE RENTING THE PROPERTY EVEN AFTER~~  
22 ~~THE PROPERTY IS SOLD TO A NEW OWNER THROUGH A FORECLOSURE SALE.~~

23 A foreclosure sale of the property is scheduled to occur as follows:

24 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

25 Time: \_\_\_\_\_

26 Place: \_\_\_\_\_

27 [After this sale, YOU COULD BE EVICTED, even if you are a tenant and even if you  
28 have paid the rent due and complied with your lease.]

29 ~~YOU MAY WANT TO CONSULT AN ATTORNEY TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOU~~  
30 ~~ARE A BONA FIDE TENANT WITH THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE RENTING THE~~  
31 ~~PROPERTY AFTER FORECLOSURE. IF YOU ARE A BONA FIDE TENANT WITH A~~  
32 ~~LEASE FOR A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE~~

~~1 RENTING THE PROPERTY UNTIL THE END OF YOUR LEASE TERM OR 90 DAYS  
2 AFTER THE NEW LEGAL TITLE HOLDER SENDS YOU A WRITTEN NOTICE TO  
3 VACATE, WHICHEVER IS LONGER. THERE IS ONE EXCEPTION TO THIS RIGHT: IF  
4 A NEW OWNER INTENDS TO OCCUPY THE PROPERTY AS HIS OR HER PRIMARY  
5 RESIDENCE, AFTER ACQUIRING LEGAL TITLE, THE NEW OWNER MAY SEND YOU A  
6 WRITTEN NOTICE TO VACATE IN 90 DAYS.~~

~~7 IF YOU ARE A BONA FIDE TENANT WITH A MONTH-TO-MONTH OR OTHER  
8 TERMINABLE-AT-WILL TENANCY, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE RENTING  
9 THE PROPERTY FOR UP TO 90 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A WRITTEN NOTICE TO  
10 VACATE FROM THE NEW OWNER.~~

~~11 IF YOU ARE NOT A BONA FIDE TENANT AND A FORECLOSURE SALE OF THE  
12 PROPERTY OCCURS, YOU COULD BE EVICTED SHORTLY AFTER THE  
13 FORECLOSURE SALE, EVEN IF YOU HAVE PAID THE RENT DUE AND COMPLIED  
14 WITH YOUR LEASE.~~

15 MOST RENTERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE RENTING THE PROPERTY  
16 AFTER IT IS SOLD AT FORECLOSURE. THE FORECLOSURE SALE PURCHASER  
17 BECOMES THE NEW LANDLORD.

18 MOST RENTERS WITH A LEASE FOR A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME HAVE  
19 THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE RENTING THE PROPERTY UNTIL THE END OF THE  
20 LEASE TERM. MOST MONTH-TO-MONTH RENTERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO  
21 CONTINUE RENTING THE PROPERTY FOR 90 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING A WRITTEN  
22 NOTICE TO VACATE FROM THE NEW OWNER.

23 YOU SHOULD GET LEGAL ADVICE TO DETERMINE IF YOU HAVE THESE  
24 RIGHTS.

25 Below you will find the name, address, and telephone number of the person  
26 authorized to sell the property. You may contact this person to **NOTIFY HIM OR HER**  
27 **THAT YOU ARE A TENANT AT THE PROPERTY AND TO** find out more about the sale.  
28 For further information, you may review the file in the office of the clerk of the circuit  
29 court. [You may want to consult an attorney to determine your rights.] You also may  
30 contact the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, at (insert  
31 telephone number), or consult the Department’s website, (insert website address), for  
32 assistance.

33 Person authorized to sell the property:

34 \_\_\_\_\_  
35 Name  
36 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Address

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 Telephone

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 Date of this notice”.

6 (2) The written notice required by this subsection shall be:

7 (i) A separate document;

8 (ii) Printed in at least 12 point type; and

9 (iii) Sent by first–class mail.

10 (3) The outside of the envelope containing the written notice required  
11 by this subsection shall state, on the address side, in bold, capitalized letters in at  
12 least 12 point type, the following: “IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL OCCUPANTS:  
13 FORECLOSURE INFORMATION ENCLOSED. OPEN IMMEDIATELY.”.

14 (d) (1) In addition to any other notice required to be given by this Code or  
15 the Maryland Rules, the person who purchases residential property in a foreclosure  
16 sale shall send, after the entry of a judgment awarding possession and before any  
17 attempt to execute the writ of possession, a written notice addressed to “all occupants”  
18 at the address of the residential property in substantially the following form:

19 “IMPORTANT EVICTION NOTICE

20 The circuit court for (insert name of county) has entered a judgment awarding  
21 possession of the property located at (insert address). **YOU COULD BE EVICTED**  
22 **FROM THE PROPERTY ON ANY DAY AFTER (insert FIRST date AFTER WHICH**  
23 **EVICTION COULD LEGALLY OCCUR UNDER STATE AND LOCAL LAW).**

24 Below you will find the name, address, and telephone number of the person who  
25 purchased the property or the purchaser’s agent. You may contact this person to find  
26 out more about the court order. For further information, you may review the file in the  
27 office of the clerk of the circuit court. You may want to consult an attorney to  
28 determine your rights. You also may contact the Maryland Department of Housing  
29 and Community Development, at (insert telephone number), or consult the  
30 Department’s website, (insert website address), for assistance.

31 Purchaser of the property or purchaser’s agent:

32 \_\_\_\_\_

33 Name



1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Address

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 Telephone

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 Date of this notice”.

7 (2) The written notice required by this subsection shall be:

8 (i) A separate document;

9 (ii) Printed in at least 12 point type; and

10 (iii) Sent by first-class mail.

11 (3) The outside of the envelope containing the written notice required  
12 by this subsection shall state, on the address side, in bold, capitalized letters in at  
13 least 12 point type, the following: “IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL OCCUPANTS:  
14 EVICTION INFORMATION ENCLOSED. OPEN IMMEDIATELY.”.

15 (e) The person giving a notice required by this section shall file in the  
16 foreclosure proceeding after each notice is sent an affidavit of compliance with the  
17 provisions of this section.

18 (f) In the event of postponement of the sale, which may be done in the  
19 discretion of the person authorized to make the sale, no new or additional notice need  
20 be given pursuant to this section.

21 ~~(G) IF A FORECLOSURE ACTION IS DISMISSED, WITHDRAWN, OR~~  
22 ~~TERMINATED FOR ANY REASON BEFORE TRANSFER OF LEGAL TITLE, A NOTICE~~  
23 ~~OF THE DISMISSAL, WITHDRAWAL, OR TERMINATION SHALL BE SENT TO EACH~~  
24 ~~TENANT WHOSE IDENTITY IS KNOWN AND TO “ALL OCCUPANTS” BY FIRST CLASS~~  
25 ~~MAIL.~~

26 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency~~  
27 ~~measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,~~  
28 ~~has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three fifths of all the members~~  
29 ~~elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from~~  
30 ~~the date it is enacted.~~

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be  
32 construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have  
33 any effect on or application to any foreclosures docketed before the effective date of  
34 this Act.

1            SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 June 1, 2010.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.