FIRST REGULAR SESSION [TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED] HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 203

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2019

1191H.07T

AN ACT

To repeal sections 82.1025, 82.1027, 82.1028, 82.1029, 82.1030, 82.1031, and 88.770, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seven new sections relating to property regulations in certain cities and counties.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 82.1025, 82.1027, 82.1028, 82.1029, 82.1030, 82.1031, 2 and 88.770, RSMo, are repealed and seven new sections enacted in lieu thereof, 3 to be known as sections 82.162, 82.1025, 82.1027, 82.1030, 82.1031, 88.770, and 4 section 1, to read as follows:

82.462. 1. Except as provided in subsection 3 of this section, a person who is not the owner of real property or who is a creditor holding a lien interest on the property, and who suspects that the real property may be abandoned may enter upon the premises of the real property, without having a right to a mechanics lien pursuant to section 429.010, to do the following:

7 (1) Without entering any structure located on the real property,
8 visually inspect the real property to determine whether the real
9 property may be abandoned;

10 (2) Upon a good faith determination based upon the inspection
11 that the property is abandoned, perform any of the following actions:

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(a) Secure the real property;

13 (b) Remove trash or debris from the grounds of the real14 property;

15 (c) Landscape, maintain, or mow the grounds of the real 16 property;

17 (d) Remove or paint over graffiti on the real property.

2. A person who enters upon the premises and conducts the actions permitted in subsection 1 of this section and who makes a good faith determination based upon the inspection that the property is abandoned shall be:

(1) Immune from claims of civil and criminal trespass and all
other civil liability therefor, unless the act or omission constitutes
gross negligence or willful, wanton, or intentional misconduct.

(2) Barred from bringing a civil action against the property
owner seeking damages as a result of physical injury, unless the
property owner's act or omission constitutes gross negligence or willful,
wanton, or intentional misconduct.

3. In the case of real property that is subject to a mortgage or deed of trust, the creditor holding the debt secured by the mortgage or deed of trust may not enter upon the premises of the real property under subsection 1 of this section if entry is barred by an automatic stay issued by a bankruptcy court.

34 4. As used in this section, "abandoned property" shall mean:

(1) A vacant, unimproved lot zoned residential or commercial for
which the owner is in violation of a county or municipal nuisance or
property maintenance ordinance; or

38 (2) With respect to actions taken pursuant to this section by a 39 creditor holding a lien interest in the property, a property which 40 contains a structure or building which has been continuously 41 unoccupied by persons legally entitled to possession for at least six 42 months prior to entry under this section and the creditor's debt 43 secured by such lien interest has been continuously delinquent for not 44 less than three months; or

(3) With respect to actions taken pursuant to this section by persons other than creditors, a property which contains a structure or building which has been continuously unoccupied by persons legally entitled to possession for at least six months prior to entry under this section, and for which the owner is in violation of a county or municipal nuisance or property maintenance ordinance, and for which either:

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(a) Ad valorum property taxes are delinquent; or

53 (b) The property owner has failed to comply with any county or 54 municipal ordinance requiring registration of vacant property, or the 55 county or municipality has determined the structure to be 56 uninhabitable due to deteriorated conditions;

57 5. This section shall apply only to real property located in any 58 home rule city with more than four hundred thousand inhabitants and 59 located in more than one county, in any county with a charter form of 60 government and with more than nine hundred fifty thousand 61 inhabitants, in any home rule city with more than one hundred sixteen 62 thousand but fewer than one hundred fifty-five thousand inhabitants, 63 and in any city not within a county.

82.1025. 1. [This Section applies] Sections 82.1025, 82.1027 and 82.1030 apply to a nuisance located within the boundaries of [any county of the $\mathbf{2}$ first classification with a charter form of government and a population greater 3 than nine hundred thousand, in any county of the first classification with more 4 5than one hundred ninety-eight thousand but fewer than one hundred ninety-nine 6 thousand two hundred inhabitants, in any county of the first classification with more than seventy-three thousand seven hundred but fewer than seventy-three 7 thousand eight hundred inhabitants, in any county of the first classification with 8 more than ninety-three thousand eight hundred but fewer than ninety-three 9 10 thousand nine hundred inhabitants, in any home rule city with more than one hundred fifty-one thousand five hundred but fewer than one hundred fifty-one 11 12thousand six hundred inhabitants, in] any city not within a county [and] or in any **home rule** city with at least three hundred fifty thousand inhabitants which 13 is located in more than one county. 14

152. [A parcel of property is a nuisance, if such property adversely affects 16 the property values of a neighborhood or the property value of any property 17within the neighborhood because the owner of such property allows the property to be in a deteriorated condition, due to neglect or failure to reasonably maintain, 18 19violation of a county or municipal building code, standard, or ordinance, 20abandonment, failure to repair after a fire, flood or some other damage to the 21property or because the owner or resident of the property allows clutter on the 22property such as abandoned automobiles, appliances or similar objects.] Any 23property owner who owns property within one thousand two hundred feet of a 24parcel of property which is alleged to be a nuisance may bring a nuisance action 25under this section against the offending property owner for the amount of 26damage created by such nuisance to the value of the petitioner's property, including diminution in value of the petitioner's property, and court costs. 27provided that the owner of the property which is alleged to be a nuisance has 2829received notification of the alleged nuisance and has had a reasonable opportunity, not to exceed forty-five days, to correct the alleged nuisance. This 30 section is not intended to abrogate, and shall not be construed as abrogating, any 3132 remedy available under the common law of private nuisance].

33 3. An action for injunctive relief to abate a nuisance [under this section]
34 may be brought under this section by:

35 (1) Anyone who owns property within one thousand two hundred feet to36 a property which is alleged to be a nuisance; or

37 (2) A neighborhood organization, as defined in [subdivision (2) of] section 38 82.1027, on behalf of any person or persons who own property within the 39 boundaries of the neighborhood or neighborhoods described in the articles of 40 incorporation or bylaws of the neighborhood organization and who could maintain 41 a nuisance action under this section or under the common law of private 42 nuisance, or on its own behalf with respect to a nuisance on property anywhere 43 within the boundaries of the neighborhood or neighborhoods.

44 4. An action shall not be brought under this section until sixty days after 45 the party who brings the action has sent written notice of intent to bring an 46 action under this section by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage 47 prepaid to:

48 (1) The tenant, if any, or to "occupant" if the identity of the tenant cannot49 be reasonably ascertained, at the property's address; and

50 (2) The property owner of record at the last known address of the property 51 owner on file with the county or city, or, if the property owner is a corporation or 52 other type of limited liability company, to the property owner's registered agent 53 at the agent's address of record;

that a nuisance exists and that legal action may be taken against the owner of the property **if the nuisance is not eliminated within sixty days after the date on the written notice**. If the notice sent by certified mail is returned unclaimed or refused, designated by the post office to be undeliverable, or signed for by a person other than the addressee, then adequate and sufficient notice [may be given to the tenant, if any, and the property owner of record by sending a copy of the notice by regular mail to the address of the property owner or 61 registered agent and] **shall be provided by** posting a copy of the notice on the 62 property where the nuisance allegedly is occurring. A sworn affidavit by the 63 person who mailed or posted the notice describing the date and manner that 64 notice was given shall be [prima facie] **sufficient** evidence [of the giving of such 65 notice] **to establish that the notice was given**. The notice shall specify:

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(a) The act or condition that constitutes the nuisance;

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(b) The date the nuisance was first discovered;

(c) The address of the property and location on the property where the actor condition that constitutes the nuisance is allegedly occurring or exists; and

(d) The relief sought in the action.

5. [When a neighborhood organization files a suit under this section, an officer of the neighborhood organization or its counsel shall certify to the court:

(1) From personal knowledge, that the neighborhood organization has
taken the required steps to satisfy the notice requirements under this section;
and

76 (2) Based on reasonable inquiry, that each condition precedent to the 77 filing of the action under this section has been met.

6. A neighborhood organization may not bring an action under this section if, at the time of filing suit, the neighborhood organization or any of its directors own real estate, or have an interest in a trust or a corporation or other limited liability company that owns real estate, in the city or county in which the nuisance is located with respect to which real property taxes are delinquent or a notice of violation of a city code or ordinance has been issued and served and is outstanding.

7. This section is not intended to abrogate, and shall not be construed as abrogating, any remedy available under the common law of private nuisance.] A copy of a notice of citation issued by the city or county that shows the date the citation was issued shall be prima facie evidence of whether and for how long a citation has been pending against the property or the property owner.

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6. A proceeding under this section shall:

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(2) Be expedited in every way.

94 7. When a property owner or neighborhood organization brings
95 an action under this section for injunctive relief to abate a nuisance,
96 a prima facie case for injunctive relief shall be made upon proof that

(1) Be heard at the earliest practicable date; and

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97 a nuisance exists on the property. Such an action shall not require
98 proof that the party bringing the action has sustained damage or loss
99 as a result of the nuisance.

100 8. With respect to an action under this section against the owner 101 of commercial or industrial property, when a property owner or neighborhood organization bringing the action prevails in such action, 102such property owner or organization may be entitled to an award for 103its reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, as ordered by the court, 104 105incurred in bringing and prosecuting the action, which award for attorneys' fees and expenses shall be entered as a judgment against the 106 107owner of the property on which the act or condition constituting the nuisance occurred or was located. 108

109 9. Property owners bringing a lawsuit based on the prima facie case standard under subsections 5 and 7 of this section, or seeking 110 attorney fees and expenses under subsection 8 of this section, shall be 111 112limited to lawsuits involving property ownership in any home rule city 113with more than three hundred fifty thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county or any city not within a county and shall 114 otherwise be limited to the general standards for nuisance applying to 115116 other political subdivisions under section 1 of this section.

82.1027. As used in [sections 82.1027 to] section 82.1025 and sections
82.1027 to 82.1030, the following terms mean:

3 (1) "Code or ordinance violation", a violation under the provisions of a 4 municipal code or ordinance of any home rule city with more than four hundred 5 thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county, or any city not within 6 a county, which regulates fire prevention, animal control, noise control, property 7 maintenance, building construction, health, safety, neighborhood detriment, 8 sanitation, or nuisances;

(2) "Neighborhood organization", either:

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10 (a) A Missouri not-for-profit corporation that:

a. Is a bonafide community organization formed for the purpose
of neighborhood preservation or improvement;

b. Whose articles of incorporation or bylaws specify that one of the
purposes for which the corporation is organized is the preservation and protection
of residential and community property values in all or part of a neighborhood
or neighborhoods with geographic boundaries that conform to the boundaries of

not more than two adjoining neighborhoods recognized by the planning divisionof the city or county in which the neighborhood or neighborhoods are located[provided that the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws provide that:

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- (a) The corporation has members;

(b) Membership shall be open to all persons who own residential real estate or who reside in the neighborhood or neighborhoods described in the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws subject to reasonable restrictions on membership to protect the integrity of the organization; however, membership may not be conditioned upon payment of monetary consideration in excess of twenty-five dollars per year; and

(c) Only members who own residential real estate or who reside in the neighborhood or neighborhoods described in the corporation's articles of incorporation or bylaws may elect directors or serve as a director] in any home rule city with more than three hundred fifty thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county, or in any city not within a county; and

c. Whose board of directors is comprised of individuals, at least
half of whom maintain their principal residence in a neighborhood the
organization serves as described in the organization's articles of
incorporation or bylaws; or

36 (b) An organization recognized by the federal Internal Revenue 37 Service as tax exempt under the provisions of Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), or the corresponding section of any future tax code, 38which has had a contract with any home rule city with more than three 39 40 hundred fifty thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county, or in any city not within a county to furnish housing related 41 services in that municipality or county at any point during the five-42year period preceding the filing of the action, and is in compliance with 4344 or completed such contract;

45(3) "Nuisance", [within the boundaries of the neighborhood or 46 neighborhoods described in the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the 47neighborhood organization, an act or condition knowingly created, performed, maintained, or permitted to exist on private property that constitutes a code or 48 ordinance violation and that significantly affects the other residents of the 49 neighborhood; and] an activity or condition created, performed, 5051maintained, or permitted to exist on private property that constitutes a code or ordinance violation, whether or not the property has been 52

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HCS SCS SB 203

53cited by the city or county in which the property is located; or, if the property is in a deteriorated condition, due to neglect or failure to 54reasonably maintain, abandonment, failure to repair after a fire, flood, 55or some other deterioration of the property, or there is clutter on the 56property such as abandoned automobiles, appliances, or similar objects; 5758or, with respect to commercial, industrial, and vacant property, if the activity or condition on the property encourages, promotes, or 59substantially contributes to unlawful activity within three hundred feet 60 61 of the property; and the activity or condition either:

62 (a) Diminishes the value of the neighboring property; or

63 (b) Is injurious to the public health, safety, security, or welfare of64 neighboring residents or businesses; or

(c) Impairs the reasonable use or peaceful enjoyment of other property inthe neighborhood.

82.1030. 1. Subject to subsection 2 of this section, [sections] section
82.1025 and sections 82.1027 to [82.1029] 82.1030 shall not be construed as
to abrogate any equitable or legal right or remedy otherwise available under the
law to abate a nuisance.

5 2. [Sections] Section 82.1025 and sections 82.1027 to [82.1029] 6 82.1030 shall not be construed [as] to grant standing for an action challenging 7 any zoning application or approval.

82.1031. No action shall be brought under section 82.1025 [or] and sections 82.1027 to 82.1030 if the owner of the property that is the subject of the action is in good faith compliance with [any order] all orders issued by the department of natural resources, the United States Environmental Protection 5 Agency, or the office of attorney general.

88.770. 1. The board of aldermen may provide for and regulate the lighting of streets and the erection of lamp posts, poles and lights therefor, and 2may make contracts with any person, association or corporation, either private 3 or municipal, for the lighting of the streets and other public places of the city 4 with gas, electricity or otherwise, except that each initial contract shall be 5ratified by a majority of the voters of the city voting on the question and any 6 renewal contract or extension shall be subject to voter approval of the majority 7of the voters voting on the question, pursuant to the provisions of section 8 88.251. The board of aldermen may erect, maintain and operate gas works, 9 electric light works, or light works of any other kind or name, and to erect lamp 10

HCS SCS SB 203

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posts, electric light poles, or any other apparatus or appliances necessary to light 11 the streets, avenues, alleys or other public places, and to supply private lights for 12the use of the inhabitants of the city and its suburbs, and may regulate the same, 13 and may prescribe and regulate the rates to be paid by the consumers thereof, 14 and may acquire by purchase, donation or condemnation suitable grounds within 15or without the city upon which to erect such works and the right-of-way to and 16from such works, and also the right-of-way for laying gas pipes, electric wires 17under or above the grounds, and erecting posts and poles and such other 18 apparatus and appliances as may be necessary for the efficient operation of such 1920works. The board of aldermen may, in its discretion, grant the right to any 21person, persons or corporation, to erect such works and lay the pipe, wires, and 22erect the posts, poles and other necessary apparatus and appliances therefor, 23upon such terms as may be prescribed by ordinance. Such rights shall not extend for a longer time than twenty years, but may be renewed for another period or 2425periods not to exceed twenty years per period. Every initial grant shall be approved by a majority of the voters of the municipality voting on the question, 2627and each renewal or extension of such rights shall be subject to voter approval of 28the majority of the voters voting on the question, pursuant to the provisions of 29section 88.251. Nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to prevent the board of aldermen from contracting with any person, persons or corporation for 30 31furnishing the city with gas or electric lights in cities where franchises have already been granted, and where gas or electric light plants already exist, without 3233 a vote of the people, except that the board of aldermen may sell, convey, encumber, lease, abolish or otherwise dispose of any public utilities owned by the 3435 city including electric light systems, electric distribution systems or transmission lines, or any part of the electric light systems, electric or other heat systems, 36 electric or other power systems, electric or other railways, gas plants, telephone 37 systems, telegraph systems, transportation systems of any kind, waterworks, 38equipments and all public utilities not herein enumerated and everything 39 40 acquired therefor, after first having passed an ordinance setting forth the terms of the sale, conveyance or encumbrance and when ratified by two-thirds of the 41 voters voting on the question, except for the sale of a water or wastewater system, 4243 or the sale of a gas plant, which shall be authorized by a simple majority vote of 44 the voters voting on the question. In the event of the proposed sale of a water or wastewater system, or a gas plant, the board of alderman shall hold a public 4546 meeting on such proposed sale at least thirty days prior to the vote. The

HCS SCS SB 203

municipality in question shall notify its customers of the informational meeting 47 48 through radio, television, newspaper, regular mail, electronic mail, or any 49 combination of notification methods to most effectively notify customers at least fifteen days prior to the informational meeting. In advance of putting a 50proposed sale of a water or wastewater system or a gas plant before the 51voters, the board of aldermen may seek an appraisal as set forth in 52subsections 3 and 4 of section 393.320. The board may also seek and 53provide additional reasonable analyses to inform voters of such sale 54including, but not limited to, the impact of such sale on all city funds 55and revenues, other city services, and annexation. Nothing in this 5657section shall be so construed as to discourage the board of aldermen from seeking multiple bids when considering the disposal of a water or 5859wastewater system or a gas plant by sale.

2. The board of aldermen's determination of the fair market
value of a water or wastewater system or a gas plant for the purposes
of this section shall not be dispositive of the price of a water or
wastewater system or a gas plant, which may be subject to negotiation
by the board of aldermen.

3. The board of aldermen may consider alternatives to disposing
of a water or wastewater system or a gas plant by sale, including
entering into a finance agreement, purchase agreement, management
agreement, or lease agreement with another entity.

4. The board of aldermen may make available on its internet site, if such internet site exists, at least forty-five days prior to submitting a proposal for election pursuant to this section, a copy of the appraisal or additional reasonable analyses under subsection 1 of this section and the fair market value of a water or wastewater system or a gas plant. Such information may also be posted in the building where the board of aldermen has its monthly meetings.

765. The board of aldermen may make a good-faith effort to notify each property owner of the city and each ratepayer of a water or 77wastewater system or a gas plant of the proposal to dispose of the 78water or wastewater system or a gas plant, by sale through radio, 79television, newspaper, regular mail, electronic mail, or any combination 80 of such notification methods. Such notice may also include instructions 81 for locating a summary of the proposal and a summary of any appraisal 82 and analyses as under subsection 1 of this section on the board of 83

84 aldermen's internet site, if such internet site exists. In the event the 85 board of aldermen does not have an internet site, the notice may inform 86 the recipient that written copies of such information may be made 87 available at the building where the board of aldermen has its monthly 88 meetings.

6. Nothing in this section shall be construed as a violation of
section 115.646, relating to the use of public funds to advocate, support,
or oppose the ballot measure prescribed in subsection 7 of this section.

92 7. The ballots shall be substantially in the following form and shall
93 indicate the property, or portion thereof, and whether the same is to be sold,
94 leased or encumbered:

95 Shall_____ (Indicate the property by stating whether electric
96 distribution system, electric transmission lines or waterworks, etc.)
97 be ______ (Indicate whether sold, leased or encumbered.)?

Section 1. In lieu of a political subdivision conducting building $\mathbf{2}$ permit inspections of the new construction of a one or two family 3 residential dwelling, the licensed engineer who sealed the ultimate 4 submission of plans for the permit shall be allowed to conduct the footing, foundation, wall, and framing inspections in accordance with 56 the procedures for such inspections established by the political subdivision. Such licensed engineer or architect shall report on such 7 work by using the uniform inspection forms used by the political 8 subdivision and shall submit such forms to the political subdivision. 9

[82.1028. Sections 82.1027 to 82.1030 apply to a nuisance located within the boundaries of any city not within a county and any home rule city with more than four hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county.]

[82.1029. 1. A neighborhood organization, on behalf of a $\mathbf{2}$ person or persons who own real estate or reside within one 3 thousand two hundred feet of a property on which there is a 4 condition or activity constituting a code or ordinance violation in $\mathbf{5}$ the neighborhood or neighborhoods described in the articles of 6 incorporation or the bylaws of the neighborhood organization, or on 7 its own behalf with respect to a code or ordinance violation on 8 property anywhere within the boundaries of the neighborhood or 9 neighborhoods, may seek injunctive and other equitable relief in

10 the circuit court for abatement of a nuisance upon showing: (1) The notice requirements of this section have been 11 12satisfied: and 13(2) The nuisance exists and has not been abated. 142. An action under this section shall not be brought until: 15(1) Sixty days after the neighborhood organization sends 16written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage 17prepaid, to the appropriate municipal code enforcement agency of 18the neighborhood organization's intent to bring an action under this section, together with a copy of the notice the neighborhood 19 20organization sent or attempted to send to the property owner in 21compliance with subdivision (2) of subsection 2 of this section; and 22(2) Sixty days after the neighborhood organization sends 23notice by first class prepaid postage certified mail, return receipt 24requested, to: 25(a) The tenant, if any, or to "occupant" if the identity of the 26tenant cannot be reasonably ascertained, at the property's address; 27and (b) The property owner of record at the last known address 2829of the property owner on file with the county or city, or, if the 30 property owner is a corporation or other type of limited liability 31company, to the property owner's registered agent at the registered 32agent's address of record; 33 that a nuisance exists and that legal action may be taken if the nuisance is not abated. If the notice sent by certified mail is 34returned unclaimed or refused, designated by the post office to be 3536 undeliverable, or signed for by a person other than the addressee, 37 then adequate and sufficient notice may be given to the tenant, if 38 any, and the property owner of record by sending a copy of the 39 notice by regular mail to the address of the property owner or registered agent and posting a copy of notice on the property where 40 41 the nuisance allegedly is occurring. 42 3. A sworn affidavit by the person who mailed or posted the 43notice describing the date and manner that notice was given shall 44 be prima facie evidence of the giving of such notice.

45 4. The notice required by this section shall specify:

46 (1) The act or condition that constitutes the nuisance;

(2) The date the nuisance was first discovered;

48 (3) The address of the property and location on the property
49 where the act or condition that constitutes the nuisance is allegedly
50 occurring or exists; and

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(4) The relief sought in the action.

52 5. In filing a suit under this section, an officer of the 53 neighborhood organization or its counsel shall certify to the court:

54 (1) From personal knowledge, that the neighborhood 55 organization has taken the required steps to satisfy the notice 56 requirements under this section; and

57 (2) Based on reasonable inquiry, that each condition 58 precedent to the filing of the action under this section has been 59 met.

60 6. An action may not be brought under this section based on an alleged violation of a particular code provision or ordinance 61 62 if there is then pending against the property or the owner of the 63 property a notice of violation with respect to such code provision or 64 ordinance issued by an appropriate municipal code enforcement 65 agency unless such notice of violation has been pending for more 66 than forty-five days and the condition or activity that gave rise to the violation has not been abated. This subsection shall not 67 68 preclude an action under this section where the appropriate 69 municipal code enforcement agency has declined to issue a notice 70of violation against the property or the property owner.

7. A neighborhood organization may not bring an action 7172under this section if, at the time of filing suit, the neighborhood organization or any of its directors own real estate, or have an 7374interest in a trust or a corporation or other limited liability 75company that owns real estate, in the city or county in which the 76nuisance is located with respect to which real property taxes are 77delinquent or a notice of violation of a city code or ordinance has 78been issued and served and is outstanding.

8. A copy of the notice of citation issued by the city that
shows the date the citation was issued shall be prima facie
evidence of whether and for how long a citation has been pending

- 82 against the property or the property owner.
- 83 9. A proceeding under this section shall:
 - (1) Be heard at the earliest practicable date; and
- 85 (2) Be expedited in every way.]

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