

HOUSE BILL 1142

L2

4lr1956

By: **Delegates Martinez and Williams**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County and Prince George's County – Enforcement of Local Vacant**
3 **Property Laws**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing Montgomery County and Prince George's County to enforce
5 certain local laws by imposing certain civil and criminal fines and penalties; and
6 generally relating to the enforcement of local laws in Montgomery County and Prince
7 George's County.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Local Government

10 Section 12–905

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2013 Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Local Government**

16 **12–905.**

17 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “BUSINESS ENTITY” MEANS A CORPORATION, A**
18 **PARTNERSHIP, A BUSINESS TRUST, A STATUTORY TRUST, A LIMITED LIABILITY**
19 **COMPANY, A FIRM, OR AN ASSOCIATION.**

20 **(2) “BUSINESS ENTITY” INCLUDES:**

21 **(I) A BANKING INSTITUTION, AS DEFINED IN § 1–101 OF THE**
22 **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARTICLE;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(II) A CREDIT UNION, AS DEFINED IN § 1–101 OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARTICLE; AND

(III) A NONDEPOSITORY MORTGAGE COMPANY.

(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO:

(1) MONTGOMERY COUNTY; AND

(2) PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY.

(C) NOTWITHSTANDING § 10–202(B) OF THIS ARTICLE, A COUNTY MAY PROVIDE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF AN ORDINANCE, A RESOLUTION, A BYLAW, OR A REGULATION RELATING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF A VACANT DWELLING OR BUILDING OWNED BY A BUSINESS ENTITY AND ADOPTED UNDER TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE:

(1) BY CIVIL FINES NOT EXCEEDING:

(I) FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, \$5,000;

(II) FOR A SECOND VIOLATION WITHIN A 12–MONTH PERIOD, \$10,000; AND

(III) FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION WITHIN A 12–MONTH PERIOD, \$20,000; OR

(2) BY CRIMINAL FINES AND PENALTIES:

(I) FOR A FIRST VIOLATION, IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 6 MONTHS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR BOTH;

(II) FOR A SECOND VIOLATION WITHIN A 12–MONTH PERIOD, IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 6 MONTHS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 OR BOTH; AND

(III) FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION WITHIN A 12–MONTH PERIOD, IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 6 MONTHS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$20,000 OR BOTH.

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