

HOUSE BILL 816

N1

0lr1034

By: **Delegates J. Lewis and R. Lewis**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Real Property – Residential Leases – Voter Registration**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a landlord to provide certain individuals with a State voter
4 registration application within a certain number of days after the date of occupancy;
5 making a landlord liable for certain damages for failure to comply with this Act;
6 providing that this Act may not be construed to require a landlord to assist a resident
7 with completion of a State voter registration application; and generally relating to
8 landlords and tenants.

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Real Property
11 Section 8–218
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Real Property**

17 **8–218.**

18 **(A) NOT LATER THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF OCCUPANCY, A**
19 **LANDLORD SHALL PROVIDE A TENANT WITH A STATE VOTER REGISTRATION**
20 **APPLICATION FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD WHO IS AUTHORIZED**
21 **TO RESIDE AT THE RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY.**

22 **(B) (1) A LANDLORD THAT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF**
23 **THIS SECTION SHALL BE LIABLE FOR \$25 IN DAMAGES FOR EACH VOTER**
24 **REGISTRATION APPLICATION THAT THE LANDLORD FAILED TO PROVIDE.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) A LANDLORD MAY RAISE AS A DEFENSE ALL REASONABLE**
2 **ATTEMPTS BY THE LANDLORD TO DELIVER THE VOTER REGISTRATION**
3 **APPLICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

4 **(C) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE A**
5 **LANDLORD TO ASSIST A RESIDENT WITH COMPLETION OF A STATE VOTER**
6 **REGISTRATION APPLICATION.**

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2020.