

SENATE BILL 896

N1

5lr3382
CF 5lr3387

By: **Senator Love**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Real Property – Residential Rental Property – Pet Policy Disclosure**
3 **(Pet Policy Transparency Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the landlord of a residential rental property to provide the
5 property's pet policy on the property's website, in digital advertisements, in certain
6 search engines, and as part of an application for a rental unit on the property; and
7 generally relating to pet policies in residential rental property.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Real Property
10 Section 8–210
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Real Property**

16 8–210.

17 (a) (1) The landlord of any residential rental property shall include in a
18 written lease or post a sign in a conspicuous place on that property listing the name,
19 address, and telephone number of:

20 (i) The landlord; or

21 (ii) The person, if any, authorized to accept notice or service of
22 process on behalf of the landlord.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) If a landlord fails to comply with paragraph (1) of this subsection, notice or service of process shall be deemed to be proper if the tenant sends notice or service of process by any of the following means:

- (i) To the person to whom the rent is paid;
- (ii) To the address where the rent is paid; or
- (iii) To the address where the tax bill is sent.

(b) (1) This subsection applies only in Montgomery County.

(2) In this subsection, “development” has the meaning provided in § 11B–101 of this article.

(3) (i) Before execution by a tenant of a lease for an initial term of 125 days or more, the owner of any residential rental property within any condominium or development shall provide to the prospective tenant, to the extent applicable, a copy of the rules, declaration, and recorded covenants and restrictions that limit or affect the use and occupancy of the property or common areas and to which the owner is obligated.

(ii) The written lease shall include a statement, if applicable, that the obligations of the owner that limit or affect the use and occupancy of the property are enforceable against the owner’s tenant.

(C) (1) THE LANDLORD OF ANY RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY SHALL:

(I) PROVIDE A LINK TO THE PROPERTY’S PET POLICY:

1. ON THE PROPERTY’S WEBSITE;

2. IN ANY DIGITAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE PROPERTY; AND

3. IN ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR A RESIDENTIAL RENTAL SEARCH ENGINE; AND

(II) PROVIDE A WRITTEN COPY OR SUMMARY OF THE PROPERTY’S PET POLICY IN ANY RENTAL APPLICATION FORM FOR A UNIT IN THE PROPERTY.

(2) A PET POLICY PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL STATE:

(I) ANY BREED AND WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS;

1 **(II) ANY REQUIRED FEES, INCLUDING:**

2 **1. UP-FRONT, NONREFUNDABLE PET FEES;**

3 **2. REFUNDABLE PET DEPOSITS; AND**

4 **3. MONTHLY PET FEES;**

5 **(III) ANY LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF PETS ALLOWED IN A UNIT;**

6 **(IV) ANY VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS;**

7 **(V) ANY LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS; AND**

8 **(VI) ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PET OWNERS**
9 **IMPOSED BY THE LANDLORD.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2025.