

# HOUSE BILL 556

N1

0lr2637

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By: **Delegates Saab and Cullison**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Condominiums and Homeowners Associations – Amendment of Governing**  
3 **Documents**

4 FOR the purpose of clarifying the circumstances under which unit owners may vote to  
5 amend the bylaws of a condominium; clarifying the circumstances under which lot  
6 owners may vote to amend certain governing documents of a homeowners  
7 association; and generally relating to the amendment of the governing documents of  
8 condominiums and homeowners associations.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Real Property  
11 Section 11–104(e) and 11B–116  
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 11–104.

18 (e) (1) A corrective amendment to the bylaws may be made in accordance with  
19 § 11–103.1 of this title, or as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

20 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the  
21 bylaws may be amended by the affirmative vote of unit owners as provided under  
22 paragraph (6) of this subsection.

23 (ii) The bylaws may be amended by the affirmative vote of unit  
24 owners having at least 51% of the votes in the council of unit owners for the purpose of

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 requiring all unit owners to maintain condominium unit owner insurance policies on their  
2 units.

3 (3) (i) Except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, if the  
4 declaration or bylaws contain a provision requiring any action on the part of the holder of  
5 a mortgage or deed of trust on a unit in order to amend the bylaws, that provision shall be  
6 deemed satisfied if the procedures under this paragraph are satisfied.

7 (ii) If the declaration or bylaws contain a provision described in  
8 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, the council of unit owners shall cause to be delivered to  
9 each holder of a mortgage or deed of trust entitled to notice, a copy of the proposed  
10 amendment to the bylaws.

11 (iii) If a holder of the mortgage or deed of trust that receives the  
12 proposed amendment fails to object, in writing, to the proposed amendment within 60 days  
13 from the date of actual receipt of the proposed amendment, the holder shall be deemed to  
14 have consented to the adoption of the amendment.

15 (4) Paragraph (3) of this subsection does not apply to amendments that:

16 (i) Alter the priority of the lien of the mortgage or deed of trust;

17 (ii) Materially impair or affect the unit as collateral; or

18 (iii) Materially impair or affect the right of the holder of the mortgage  
19 or deed of trust to exercise any rights under the mortgage, deed of trust, or applicable law.

20 (5) Each particular set forth in subsection (b) of this section shall be  
21 expressed in the bylaws as amended. An amendment under paragraph (2) of this subsection  
22 shall be entitled to be recorded if accompanied by a certificate of the person specified in the  
23 bylaws to count votes at the meeting of the council of unit owners that the amendment was  
24 approved by unit owners having the required percentage of the votes and shall be effective  
25 on recordation. This certificate shall be conclusive evidence of approval.

26 (6) (i) In this paragraph, “in good standing” means not being more than  
27 90 days in arrears in the payment of any assessment or charge due to the condominium.

28 (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of the bylaws, the council of unit  
29 owners may amend the bylaws by the affirmative vote of [unit owners in good standing  
30 having] at least 60% of [the votes in the council] **UNIT OWNERS IN GOOD STANDING**, or  
31 by a lower percentage **OF UNIT OWNERS IN GOOD STANDING** if required in the bylaws.

32 11B-116.

33 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

34 (2) “Governing document” includes:

- 1 (i) A declaration;
- 2 (ii) Bylaws;
- 3 (iii) A deed and agreement; and
- 4 (iv) Recorded covenants and restrictions.

5 (3) "In good standing" means not being more than 90 days in arrears in the  
6 payment of any assessment or charge due to the homeowners association.

7 (b) This section does not apply to a homeowners association that issues bonds or  
8 other long-term debt secured in whole or in part by annual charges assessed in accordance  
9 with a declaration, or to a village community association affiliated with the homeowners  
10 association.

11 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of a governing document, a homeowners  
12 association may amend the governing document by the affirmative vote of [lot owners in  
13 good standing having] at least 60% of [the votes in the development] **LOT OWNERS IN**  
14 **GOOD STANDING**, or by a lower percentage **OF LOT OWNERS IN GOOD STANDING** if  
15 required in the governing document.

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