

SENATE BILL 32

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(PRE-FILED)

51r0764
CF HB 229

By: **Senator Gile**

Requested: September 9, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Real Property – Holding Over – Expedited Hearing and Service of Summons for**
3 **Active Duty Service Members**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the District Court to hold a hearing on a tenant holding over
5 within a certain number of days after a landlord makes a complaint if the landlord
6 or the landlord's spouse is on active duty with the United States military; authorizing
7 a private process server to serve a certain summons under certain circumstances;
8 and generally relating to actions for holding over.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Real Property
11 Section 8–402
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 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 8–402.

18 (a) (1) A tenant under any periodic tenancy, or at the expiration of a lease, and
19 someone holding under the tenant, who shall unlawfully hold over beyond the expiration of
20 the lease or termination of the tenancy, shall be liable to the landlord for the actual
21 damages caused by the holding over.

22 (2) The damages awarded to a landlord against the tenant or someone
23 holding under the tenant, may not be less than the apportioned rent for the period of
24 holdover at the rate under the lease.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) (i) Any action to recover damages under this section may be brought
2 by suit separate from the eviction or removal proceeding or in the same action and in any
3 court having jurisdiction over the amount in issue.

4 (ii) The court may also give judgment in favor of the landlord for the
5 damages determined to be due together with costs of the suit if the court finds that the
6 residential tenant was personally served with a summons, or, in the case of a nonresidential
7 tenancy, there was such service of process or submission to the jurisdiction of the court as
8 would support a judgment in contract or tort.

9 (iii) A nonresidential tenant who was not personally served with a
10 summons shall not be subject to personal jurisdiction of the court if that tenant asserts that
11 the appearance is for the purpose of defending an in rem action prior to the time that
12 evidence is taken by the court.

13 (4) Nothing [contained herein] **IN THIS SECTION** is intended to limit any
14 other remedies which a landlord may have against a holdover tenant under the lease or
15 under applicable law.

16 (b) (1) (i) Subject to § 8–406 of this subtitle and where any tenancy is for
17 any definite term or at will, and the landlord shall desire to repossess the property after
18 the expiration of the term for which it was leased and shall give notice as required under
19 subsection (c) of this section to the tenant or to the person actually in possession of the
20 property to remove from the property at the end of the term, and if the tenant or person in
21 actual possession shall refuse to comply, the landlord may make complaint in writing to
22 the District Court of the county where the property is located.

23 (ii) **SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH:**

24 1. The court shall issue a summons directed to any constable
25 or sheriff of the county entitled to serve process, ordering the constable or sheriff to notify
26 the tenant, assignee, or subtenant to appear on a day stated in the summons before the
27 court to show cause why restitution should not be made to the landlord[.];

28 2. The constable or sheriff shall serve the summons on the
29 tenant, assignee, or subtenant on the property, or on the known or authorized agent of the
30 tenant, assignee, or subtenant[.];

31 3. If, for any reason [those persons] **THE TENANT,**
32 **ASSIGNEE, OR SUBTENANT ON THE PROPERTY OR THE KNOWN OR AUTHORIZED**
33 **AGENT OF THE TENANT, ASSIGNEE, OR SUBTENANT** cannot be found, the constable or
34 sheriff shall affix an attested copy of the summons conspicuously on the property[.]; **AND**

1 4. After notice to the tenant, assignee, or subtenant by
2 first-class mail, the affixing of the summons on the property shall be conclusively presumed
3 to be a sufficient service to support restitution.

4 **(III) 1. THIS SUBPARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY IF THE**
5 **LANDLORD OR THE LANDLORD'S SPOUSE:**

6 **A. IS ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE UNITED STATES**
7 **MILITARY;**

8 **B. HAS RELOCATED TO THE STATE AS A DIRECT RESULT**
9 **OF BEING ON ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE UNITED STATES MILITARY;**

10 **C. INTENDS TO OCCUPY THE PROPERTY THAT IS THE**
11 **SUBJECT OF A COMPLAINT UNDER THIS SECTION FOLLOWING THE ENTRY OF A**
12 **JUDGMENT UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

13 **D. SUBMITS DOCUMENTATION SUPPORTING THE**
14 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH WITH THE COMPLAINT.**

15 **2. THE COURT SHALL ORDER IN THE SUMMONS**
16 **REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH THAT THE TENANT,**
17 **ASSIGNEE, OR SUBTENANT APPEAR BEFORE THE COURT ON A DAY NOT LATER THAN**
18 **45 DAYS AFTER THE DATE THE LANDLORD MAKES A COMPLAINT UNDER THIS**
19 **SECTION TO REPOSSESS THE PROPERTY.**

20 **3. IF THE CONSTABLE OR SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY**
21 **FAILS TO SERVE THE SUMMONS REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
22 **PARAGRAPH WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE SUMMONS IS ISSUED BY THE COURT, THE**
23 **SUMMONS MAY BE SERVED BY A PRIVATE PROCESS SERVER.**

24 **[(iii)] (IV)** Upon the failure of either of the parties to appear before
25 the court on the day stated in the summons, the court may continue the case to a day not
26 less than 6 nor more than 10 days after the day first stated and notify the parties of the
27 continuance.

28 (2) (i) If upon hearing the parties, or in case the tenant or person in
29 possession shall neglect to appear after the summons and continuance the court shall find
30 that the landlord had been in possession of the leased property, that the said tenancy is
31 fully ended and expired, that due notice to quit as aforesaid had been given to the tenant
32 or person in possession and that the tenant or person in possession had refused so to do,
33 the court shall thereupon give judgment for the restitution of the possession of said
34 premises and shall forthwith issue its warrant to the sheriff or a constable in the respective
35 counties commanding the tenant or person in possession forthwith to deliver to the landlord
36 possession thereof in as full and ample manner as the landlord was possessed of the same

1 at the time when the tenancy was made, and shall give judgment for costs against the
2 tenant or person in possession so holding over.

3 (ii) Either party shall have the right to appeal therefrom to the
4 circuit court for the county within 10 days from the judgment.

5 (iii) If the tenant appeals and files with the District Court an affidavit
6 that the appeal is not taken for delay, and also a good and sufficient bond with one or more
7 securities conditioned that the tenant will prosecute the appeal with effect and well and
8 truly pay all rent in arrears and all costs in the case before the District Court and in the
9 appellate court and all loss or damage which the landlord may suffer by reason of the
10 tenant's holding over, including the value of the premises during the time the tenant shall
11 so hold over, then the tenant or person in possession of said premises may retain possession
12 thereof until the determination of said appeal.

13 (iv) The appellate court shall, upon application of either party, set a
14 day for the hearing of the appeal, not less than 5 nor more than 15 days after the
15 application, and notice for the order for a hearing shall be served on the opposite party or
16 that party's counsel at least 5 days before the hearing.

17 (v) If the judgment of the District Court shall be in favor of the
18 landlord, a warrant shall be issued by the appellate court to the sheriff, who shall proceed
19 forthwith to execute the warrant.

20 (c) (1) This subsection applies to all cases of tenancies at the expiration of a
21 stated term, tenancies from year to year, tenancies from month to month, and tenancies
22 from week to week.

23 (2) Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, a
24 landlord shall provide written notice of the intent to terminate a tenancy:

25 (i) If the parties have a written lease for a stated term in excess of
26 1 week or a tenancy from month to month, 60 days before the expiration of the tenancy;

27 (ii) In the case of tenancies from year to year, including tobacco farm
28 tenancies from year to year but excluding all other farm tenancies from year to year, 90
29 days before the expiration of the current year of the tenancy;

30 (iii) In the case of tenancies from year to year for all other farm
31 tenancies, 180 days before the expiration of the current year of the tenancy; and

32 (iv) In the case of tenancies from week to week:

33 1. If the parties have a written lease, 7 days before the
34 expiration of the tenancy; or

1 2. If the parties do not have a written lease, 21 days before
2 the expiration of the tenancy.

3 (3) (i) When the tenant shall give notice by parol to the landlord or to
4 the landlord's agent or representatives, at least 30 days before the expiration of the lease
5 or tenancy in all cases except in cases of tenancies from year to year, and at least 90 days'
6 notice in all cases of tenancy from year to year (except in all cases of farm tenancy, the
7 notice shall be 180 days), of the intention of the tenant to remove at the end of that year
8 and to surrender possession of the property at that time, and the landlord, the landlord's
9 agent, or representative shall prove the notice from the tenant by competent testimony, it
10 shall not be necessary for the landlord, the landlord's agent or representative to provide a
11 written notice to the tenant, but the proof of such notice from the tenant as aforesaid shall
12 entitle the landlord to recover possession of the property hereunder.

13 (ii) This paragraph shall not apply in Baltimore City.

14 (4) (i) This paragraph does not apply to a property that is:

15 1. In Baltimore City or Montgomery County;

16 2. Owned by a landlord who offers 5 or more residential
17 dwelling units for rent in the State; or

18 3. Subject to an order to docket under § 7-105.1(e) of this
19 article.

20 (ii) If a landlord receives notice of an intent to foreclose on the
21 property under § 7-105.1(c)(1) of this article and desires to terminate the tenancy, the
22 landlord shall provide written notice of the intent to terminate a tenancy:

23 1. At least 30 days before the expiration of the lease in cases
24 of tenancies from month to month or tenancies from week to week; or

25 2. At least 60 days before the expiration of the lease in cases
26 of tenancies from year to year.

27 (5) (i) Acceptance of any payment after notice but before eviction shall
28 not operate as a waiver of any notice to quit, notice of intent to vacate or any judgment for
29 possession unless the parties specifically otherwise agree in writing.

30 (ii) Any payment accepted shall be first applied to the rent or the
31 equivalent of rent apportioned to the date that the landlord actually recovers possession of
32 the premises, then to court costs, including court awarded damages and legal fees and then
33 to any loss of rent caused by the holdover.

1 (iii) Any payment which is accepted in excess of the foregoing shall
2 not bear interest but will be returned to the tenant in the same manner as security deposits
3 as defined under § 8–203 of this title but shall not be subject to the penalties of that section.

4 (d) Unless stated otherwise in the written lease and initialed by the tenant, when
5 a landlord consents to a holdover tenant remaining on the premises, the holdover tenant
6 becomes a periodic week–to–week tenant if the tenant was a week–to–week tenant before
7 the tenant’s holding over, and a periodic month–to–month tenant in all other cases.

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