

to provide for licensing and regulation in Washington County of persons conducting closing-out sales of businesses, as defined, to provide for restraining notations, to establish penalties for violations, and relating generally to the control and regulation of closing out sales in Washington County.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Sections 167A to 167-I, inclusive, be and are hereby added to the Code of Public Local Laws of Washington County (1957 Edition, being Article 22 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Washington County", to follow immediately after Section 167 thereof, and to be under the new sub-title "Closing-Out Sales", and to read as follows:

Closing-Out Sales

167A.

For the purposes of this sub-title, (1) "closing-out sale" shall mean and include any sale in connection with which there is any representation by the person conducting such sale that the sale is being conducted, or is required or compelled to be conducted, for reasons of economic or business distress, inability to continue business at the same location, or the age or health of the owner or owners of the business, and the term "closing-out sale" shall include but not be limited to, all sales advertised, represented, or held forth under the designation of "going out of business", "discontinuance of business", "selling out", "bankruptcy sale", "liquidation", "lost our lease", "must vacate", "forced out", "removal", or any other designation of like meaning; and (2) "person" shall mean and include individuals, partnerships, voluntary associations, and corporations.

167B.

(a) No person shall advertise or offer for sale in Washington County a stock of goods, wares, or merchandise under the description of closing-out sale, or a sale of goods, wares, or merchandise damaged by fire, smoke, water, or otherwise, unless he shall have obtained a license to conduct such sale from the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County. The applicant for such a license shall make an application therefor, in writing and under oath at least 14 days prior to the opening date of sale, showing all the facts relating to the reasons and character of such sale, including the opening and terminating dates of the proposed sale, a complete inventory of the goods, wares, or merchandise actually on hand in the place where such sale is to be conducted, and all details necessary to locate exactly and identify fully the goods, wares, or merchandise to be sold.

(b) If the County Commissioners of Washington County shall be satisfied from said application that the proposed sale is of the character which the applicant desires to advertise and conduct, they shall issue a license, upon the payment of a fee of ~~\$100~~ \$25 therefor, together with a bond, payable to the county in the penal sum of \$1,000, conditioned upon compliance with this sub-title, to the applicant authorizing him to advertise and conduct a sale of the particular kind mentioned in the application. Any merchant who shall have been conducting a business in the same location where the sale is to be held for a period of not less than one year, prior to the date of holding