

Segregation Law As Signed By The Mayor

Following is the text of the new negro segregation law:

ORDINANCE NO. 234.

An ordinance to prevent conflict and ill feeling between the white and colored races in Baltimore city and to preserve the public peace and promote the general welfare by making reasonable provisions requiring the use of separate blocks for residences by white and colored people, respectively.

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore that from and after the passage of this ordinance it shall be unlawful for any white person to use as a residence or place of abode any house, building or structure, or any part thereof, located in any colored block, as the same is hereinafter defined; and it shall also be unlawful for any colored person to use as a residence or place of abode any house, building or structure, or any part thereof, located in any white block, as the same is hereinafter defined. Provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall preclude persons of either race employed as servants by persons of the other race from residing upon the premises of

which such employer is the owner or occupier, and that nothing herein contained shall be construed or operate to prevent any person who, at the date of the passage of this ordinance, shall have acquired a legal right to occupy, as a residence, any building or portion thereof, whether by devise, purchase, lease or other contract, from exercising such legal right, and that nothing in this ordinance contained shall be construed to apply to the use of any building or structure, except such as are located within either a white or a colored block, as hereinafter defined.

Sec. 2. Be it further ordained by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore that the following constitute definitions: The word "block," as the same is used in this ordinance, shall be construed to mean that portion of any street or alley, upon both sides of the same, between the two adjacent intersecting or crossing streets. In any case where either of the said adjacent streets intersects, but does not cross the street upon which the block in question may be located, the houses upon the side of the last-mentioned street facing the intersecting street shall be deemed a part of the said block. Corner houses shall be deemed

to be located in the block in which they are numbered.

A "white block" shall be construed to mean a block, as hereinabove defined, in which, at the time of the passage of this ordinance, white persons shall be residing, and in which, at said date, no colored person shall be residing, except such, if any, as may be employed as servants by white residents therein, as provided in Section 1 hereof.

A "colored block" shall be construed to mean a block, as hereinabove defined, in which, at the time of the passage of this ordinance, colored persons shall be residing, and in which, at said date, no white person shall be residing, except such, if any, as may be employed as servants by colored residents therein, as provided in Section 1 hereof.

A resident of any block shall be construed to include any person occupying any room therein as a sleeping place, whether as owner, tenant, dependent, boarder, lodger or otherwise, unless it appear that such occupation is merely transitory and that such person has another fixed place of abode; but nothing in this definition shall be construed to affect the

provision in regard to servants in Section 1 hereof.

Sec. 3. Be it further ordained by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore that any and every person violating the provisions of Section 1 of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$50 (and each day that said violation shall continue shall be considered a separate offense) or, in the discretion of the court, shall be imprisoned in the Baltimore City Jail for not less than 30 days nor more than 12 months; and the owner or agent of any building, or any part of any building, who shall cause or permit the same to be used in violation of this ordinance shall be deemed to be equally guilty of a misdemeanor with the person occupying said building, or any part of said building, and, upon conviction, shall be subject to the penalty prescribed in this section of this ordinance.

Sec. 4. And be it further ordained by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore that this ordinance shall take effect from the date of its passage.