

WHEREAS, it is essential to the peace and welfare of the community that public as well as private efforts be made to stamp out this unscrupulous practice, which utilizes and promotes panic, fear, and hate, usually for purposes of financial profit; and

WHEREAS, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of Maryland, in the exercise of its police power for the protection of public safety, general welfare, for the maintenance of business and good government, and for the promotion of the State's trade, commerce and manufactures to protect all its citizens and property owners from the efforts of "blockbusters"; now therefore

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That new Section 230A be and it is hereby added to Article 56 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1964 Replacement Volume), title "Licenses", subtitle "Real Estate Brokers", to follow immediately after Section 230 thereof, and to read as follows:*

*230A. (a) It is unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or association, whether or not acting for monetary gain, knowingly to induce or attempt to induce another person to transfer an interest in real property, or to discourage another person from purchasing real property, by representations regarding the existing or potential proximity of real property owned, used, or occupied by persons of any particular race, color, religion, or national origin, or to represent that such existing or potential proximity will or may result in: 1. The lowering of property values; 2. A change in the racial, religious, or ethnic character of the block, neighborhood or area in which the property is located; 3. An increase in criminal or antisocial behavior in the area; or 4. A decline in quality of the schools serving the area. It shall also be a violation for any licensed real estate broker or real estate salesman, or any agent of such broker or salesman, to purchase any real property which such broker or salesman has previously offered for sale, within six months of the period that such broker or salesman offered such property for sale.*

*(b) A violation of this section is a misdemeanor, punishable upon conviction by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisonment for one year, or both; and a conviction of any real estate broker or real estate salesman for a violation of this section shall be considered as constituting his or her unworthiness to continue to act as such in the State of Maryland. Such a conviction shall be referred to the Maryland Real Estate Commission for action.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1966.*

Approved April 29, 1966.

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CHAPTER 286

(Senate Bill 565)

AN ACT to add new Section 70A to Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Governor—Executive and Administrative Departments", subtitle "I. The Executive Department", to follow immediately after Section 70 thereof, and