

tion, being Article 4 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Baltimore City," subtitle "Streets, Bridges and Highways," subheading "Opening and Maintaining Streets," providing for the procedure to be followed by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore in connection with obtaining immediate possession and/or title of property under its powers of eminent domain, and vesting certain rights in and imposing certain duties upon the parties to such a condemnation proceeding, and relating generally to said municipality obtaining immediate possession and/or title of property in connection with its powers of condemnation; providing for the payment into court by the City of an amount equal to the fair value of such property and for the withdrawal of such amount less certain charges, taxes, assessments, etc. by the condemnee and for the withdrawal of certain charges, taxes, assessments, etc. by the City.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 21-16 of the Code of Local Public Laws of Baltimore City (1969 Edition, being Article 4 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland), title "Baltimore City," subtitle "Streets, Bridges and Highways," subheading "Opening and Maintaining Streets," be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

21-16.

(a) Whenever any proceedings are instituted under Article 33A of the Code of Public General Laws of the State of Maryland by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for the acquisition of any property for any public purpose whatsoever, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, simultaneously with the filing of said proceedings or at any time thereafter, may file a Petition under oath stating that it is necessary for the City to have immediate possession of *or immediate title to, and possession of* said property, and the reasons therefore, ~~and~~ and that the necessity for immediate taking is not because of any substantial fault or neglect of the City. ~~]~~ The City shall also set forth in said Petition for Immediate Taking of *possession or immediate taking of title* ~~[and possession]~~ the amount it estimates to be the fair value of the said property AND/OR TITLE to be acquired, and of the respective interests of each of the owners thereof if more than one, which shall be substantiated by the Affidavits of two qualified appraisers, attached to said Petition. The City shall deposit into Court simultaneously with the filing of said Petition the amount of said estimate of the fair value of the property to be acquired.

~~(a)~~ (B) Upon the filing of any such Petition for Immediate Taking of *possession*, the Court may direct the City to give such notice to the Defendants as the Court may deem proper. The Court may set the matter for hearing on the Petition, but any such hearing shall be held within seven days from the date of the filing of such Petition; otherwise, the Court shall act on said Petition *exparte* within said seven day period.

(c) *In cases where the City files a Petition for immediate taking of title and possession to the said property in fee simple absolute or such lesser estate or interest as is specified in the Petition, possession and title thereto shall irrevocably vest in the Mayor and City*