

SEC. 2. Severability.

The provisions of this Act are severable and if any provision, sentence, clause, section or part thereof is held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional or inapplicable to any person or circumstances, such illegality, invalidity or unconstitutionality, or inapplicability shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts of the Act or their application to other persons or circumstances. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that this Act would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional provision, sentence, clause, section or part had not been included therein, and if the person or circumstances to which the Act or any part thereof is inapplicable had been specifically exempted therefrom.

SEC. 3. The effective date of this amendment shall be July 1, 1971 and until such date the rate of tax under Section 84-25 (d) shall remain at four percent.

SEC. 4. Emergency Legislation

The Council hereby declares that an emergency exists and that this legislation is necessary for the immediate protection of public health and safety. Therefore, this emergency legislation shall take effect on the date on which it becomes law.

Effective: July 1, 1971

CHAPTER 48**(BILL NO. 8-71)**

AN ACT to add a new Chapter 11A, title "Rat Control," to the Montgomery County Code 1965, as amended, to follow immediately after Chapter 11 thereof, to define "rat," "extermination," "infestation," and other related terms; to authorize the County Health Officer to identify and eliminate rat infestations; to authorize the Health Officer to enter upon any property in the County for the purpose of making inspections relative to rat infestation either with the consent of the property owner or by warrant obtained upon written application; to provide that it shall be unlawful for any property owner to allow his property to be infested with rats; to provide for written notice to the owner of the property from the County Health Officer when rat infestation is determined to exist; to authorize the County Health Officer to enter upon property for the purpose of rat extermination at the cost of the property owner; to provide for appeals from orders or actions of the County Health Officer to the Board of Appeals; to authorize the Health Officer to control rat popula-