

MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 4 - Baltimore City

9-10.

(a) In addition to the protections afforded to the tenant by section 9-9, [no] A landlord may NOT evict a tenant of any residential property in Baltimore City OR INCREASE THE RENT OR DECREASE THE SERVICES TO WHICH THE TENANT IS ENTITLED for any of the following reasons:

(1) Solely because the tenant ~~OR HIS AGENT~~ has complained, in good faith, to the landlord [of] OR TO ANY PUBLIC AGENCY CONCERNING THE LANDLORD TENANT'S RIGHTS OR ~~CONCERNING~~ specific housing deficiencies; or

(2) Solely because the tenant is a member of any tenant's organization; or

(3) Solely because the tenant files suit against the landlord; or

(4) Solely because THE tenant consults an attorney on any matter involving tenant's rights.

(b) Evictions described in subsection (a) shall be called "retaliatory evictions".

(c) If, in any eviction proceeding, the judgment is in favor of the tenant for any of the aforementioned defenses, the court may enter judgment for reasonable attorney's fees and court costs against the landlord.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1978.

Approved May 16, 1978.

CHAPTER 577

(House Bill 148)

AN ACT concerning

Assessing Authorities

FOR the purpose of specifying that, for purposes of certain assessment decisions and appeals from them, the Supervisors of Assessments and the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Boards are respectively the initial and the final assessing authorities; and renumbering