

vetoed House Bill 701 - Baltimore City - Abandoned Property - Statute of Limitations and Damages.

This bill provides that a lawsuit filed against Baltimore City for improper taking of abandoned property must be filed within three years from the date that a court vests title to the abandoned property in the city. The damages awarded to a person in such a case are limited to the fair market value of the abandoned property at the time of the taking. The bill also may not be applied to any case filed before the bill's October 1, 2000 effective date.

Senate Bill 532, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 11, 2000, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 701.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

House Bill No. 701

AN ACT concerning

Baltimore City - Abandoned Property - Statute of Limitations and Damages

FOR the purpose of establishing the statute of limitations for an action at law or in equity against Baltimore City by a person with an interest in certain abandoned property; limiting the damages awarded to a person for certain improper taking of abandoned property to the fair market value of the abandoned property; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to Baltimore City and abandoned property.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

The Public Local Laws of Baltimore City
Section 21-17

Article 4 - Public Local Laws of Maryland

(1979 Edition and 1997 Supplement, as amended)

(As enacted by Chapter 692 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1999)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 4 - Baltimore City

21-17.

(a) In this section, "abandoned property" means:

(1) An unoccupied structure or vacant lot on which taxes are in arrears for at least 2 years;

(2) A building: