

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 08-0039  
(First Reader)**

---

Introduced by: Councilmembers Curran, Henry, D'Adamo

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2008

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

---

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Housing and  
Community Development, Department of Finance

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Vacant Lot Registration – Repeal of Registration Fee**

3 FOR the purpose of abolishing the registration fee imposed for registration of vacant lots.

4 BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments

5 Article 13 - Housing and Urban Renewal

6 Section(s) 11-2

7 Baltimore City Code

8 (Edition 2000)

9 BY repealing

10 Article 13 - Housing and Urban Renewal

11 Section(s) 11-4

12 Baltimore City Code

13 (Edition 2000)

14 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
15 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

16 **Baltimore City Code**

17 **Article 13. Housing and Urban Renewal**

18 **Subtitle 11. Registration of Vacant Lots**

19 **§ 11-2. Registration required.**

20 (a) *Owner to register annually.*

21 By September 1 of each year, the owner of a vacant lot that is assessed for \$100 or more  
22 must file a registration statement with the Commissioner on a form to be provided by the  
23 Commissioner.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

**Council Bill 08-0039**

1       **[(b) Registration fee.**

2           (1) The annual registration fee is \$25 for each vacant lot, with a maximum fee of \$5,000  
3           for all lots titled to the same owner of record.

4           (2) This fee must be paid at the time of registration.]

5       **(B) [(c) Purchaser to register on acquisition.**

6           A new owner of a vacant lot must[, ] FILE THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT at the time of  
7           acquisition[:

8           (1) file a registration statement; and

9           (2) pay the annual registration fee, unless that fee already was paid by the prior  
10          owner].

11       **(C) NO REGISTRATION FEE TO BE IMPOSED.**

12          NO REGISTRATION FEE OR OTHER CHARGE MAY BE IMPOSED FOR REGISTERING UNDER THIS  
13          SUBTITLE.

14       **[§ 11-4. Interest and late fees.**

15       **(a) In general.**

16          If an owner fails to pay the registration fee imposed by this subtitle within 30 days of the  
17          date on which it is due, the owner is liable for the following, in addition to the  
18          registration fee:

19           (1) interest at the rate of 1% for each month or fraction of a month that the  
20           registration fee is overdue; and

21           (2) a late fee at the rate of 1% for each month or fraction of a month that the  
22           registration fee is overdue.

23       **(b) Remedy not exclusive.**

24          The interest and late fee imposed by this section are in addition to any other penalties  
25          authorized by law.

26       **(c) Unpaid sum a personal debt and lien.**

27           (1) All registration fees, interest, and late fees provided for in this section are a personal  
28           debt owed by the owner of the vacant lot.

29           (2) These fees and interest:

30           (i) are a lien in favor of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore on the vacant  
31           lot; and

**Council Bill 08-0039**

1 (ii) may be collected or enforced the same as any other debts or liens due to or in  
2 favor of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.]

3 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance  
4 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior  
5 Ordinance.

6 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
7 after the date it is enacted.