

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 22-0206
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: President Mosby, Middleton

Introduced and read first time: March 21, 2022

Assigned to: Economic and Community Development Committee

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Vacant Structures – Registration Fees and Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of revising the registration process for vacant structures; modifying the
4 registration fee for vacant structures; modifying the registration renewal process for vacant
5 structures; modifying the penalties applied to vacant structures in violation of City Code;
6 providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to registration fees and penalties
7 for vacant structures.

8 BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments,
9 Article 13 - Housing and Urban Renewal
10 Sections 4-8(c) and 4-9
11 Baltimore City Code
12 (Edition 2000)

13 By adding
14 Article 13 - Housing and Urban Renewal
15 Section 4-8(d)
16 Baltimore City Code
17 (Edition 2000)

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

20 **Baltimore City Code**

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

22 **Subtitle 4. Registration of Non-Owner-Occupied Dwellings,**
23 **Rooming Houses, and Vacant Structures**

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

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§ 4-8. Registration fees.

(c) *Vacant structures.*

(1) *INCREASED FEE.*

Except as otherwise specified in this [section, an annual] SUBTITLE, A ONE-TIME registration fee, in addition to any fee that might also be required by subsection (a) or (b) of this section, must be paid for vacant structures at the following rates:

(I) [(1)] for residential structures – [\$100] \$300 per structure.

(II) [(2)] for all other structures – [\$250] \$500 per structure.

(2) *VACANT STRUCTURE PENALTIES.*

IF A VACANT STRUCTURE HAS ANY UNABATED VIOLATION NOTICES OR ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE CITY BUILDING, FIRE, AND RELATED CODES ARTICLE AT THE TIME A REGISTRATION RENEWAL IS REQUIRED, THE AMOUNT OF THE RENEWAL FEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

(I) \$500 AT THE FIRST REGISTRATION RENEWAL OF THE VACANT STRUCTURE, IF VIOLATIONS CONTINUE UNABATED;

(II) \$750 AT THE NEXT RENEWAL IF VIOLATIONS CONTINUE UNABATED;

(III) \$1,000 AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT RENEWAL IF VIOLATIONS CONTINUE UNABATED; AND

(IV) FOR SUBSEQUENT RENEWALS, THE FEE SHALL BE DOUBLE THE FEE CHARGED THE PREVIOUS YEAR, IF VIOLATIONS CONTINUE UNABATED.

§ 4-9. Term and renewal.

(A) *IN GENERAL.*

A registration TERM expires on December 31 of each year, unless:

(1) it is renewed [and the annual registration fee paid before then,]; OR

(2) THE STRUCTURE IS A VACANT STRUCTURE.

(B) *VACANT STRUCTURE REGISTRATION TERM AND RENEWAL.*

(1) *DURATION.*

A REGISTRATION FOR A VACANT STRUCTURE IS VALID FOR 6 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF REGISTRATION.

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1 (2) *RENEWAL PERIOD.*

2 A VACANT STRUCTURE REGISTRATION MUST BE RENEWED EVERY 6 MONTHS UNTIL THE
3 PROPERTY IS DEREGISTERED.

4 (3) *RENEWAL FEE.*

5 A \$50 FEE MUST BE PAID FOR EACH REGISTRATION RENEWAL FOR A VACANT
6 STRUCTURE.

7 (4) *RENEWAL FEE*

8 THE REGISTRATION FEE OR RENEWAL FEE FOR A VACANT STRUCTURE IS \$500 IF:

9 (I) THE APPLICABLE REGISTRATION OR RENEWAL TAKES PLACE AS THE RESULT OF
10 THE IDENTIFICATION OF A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

11 (II) THE APPLICABLE REGISTRATION OR RENEWAL DOES NOT TAKE PLACE THROUGH
12 VOLUNTARY AND TIMELY COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

13 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 90th day
14 after the date it is enacted.