

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2016 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-59-2016

Chapter No. 61

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Taveras

Introduced by Council Member Taveras, Davis, Toles, Lehman, Turner, Patterson,
Glaros, Franklin and Harrison

Date of Introduction October 18, 2016

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Landlord-Tenant Code

3 Drug Activity and Prostitution

4 For the purpose of making persons, landlords, landlord agents, management staff and/or owners,
5 as well as tenants, liable for the use of apartments for drug activities and/or for prostitution,
6 including human trafficking; providing punishment for statutory violators; providing for certain
7 inquiries; providing a voluntary program on human trafficking; providing for voluntary
8 registration, voluntary training, and voluntary certification; and generally regarding drug activity
9 and/or prostitution, including human trafficking.

10 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

11 SUBTITLE 13. HOUSING AND PROPERTY

12 STANDARDS.

13 Section 13-162.00.01,

14 The Prince George's County Code

15 (2015 Edition).

16 BY adding:

17 SUBTITLE 13. HOUSING AND PROPERTY

18 STANDARDS.

19 Section 13-162.00.02, 13-162.00.03,

20 and 13-162.00.04,

21 The Prince George's County Code

(2015 Edition).

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Section 13-162.00.01 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is hereby repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

SUBTITLE 13. HOUSING AND PROPERTY STANDARDS.

DIVISION 3. LANDLORD-TENANT REGULATIONS.

SUBDIVISION 2. LANDLORD-TENANT CODE.

Sec. 13-162.00.01. - Use of apartment for drug activities prohibited.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, tenant, landlord, landlord agent, management staff and/or property owner to knowingly, sublease, assign, transfer possession, or permit use of an apartment for the purposes of any violation of the Controlled Dangerous Substance Laws of the State of Maryland and/or of Prince George's County.

(b) Anyone who violates this Section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor per apartment, per occurrence and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine [not exceeding] of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months for each offense.

SECTION 2. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that Section 13-162.00.02, Section 13-162.00.03, and Section 13-162.00.04, of the Prince George's County Code be and the same are hereby added:

SUBTITLE 13. HOUSING AND PROPERTY STANDARDS.

DIVISION 3. LANDLORD-TENANT REGULATIONS.

SUBDIVISION 2. LANDLORD-TENANT CODE.

Sec. 13-162.00.02. - Use of apartment for prostitution, including human trafficking prohibited.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, tenant, landlord, landlord agent, management staff and/or property owner to knowingly sublease, assign, transfer possession, or permit use of an apartment for the purposes of any violation of the Prostitution Laws, including human trafficking laws of the State of Maryland and/or Prince George's County.

(b) Anyone who violates this Section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor per apartment, per occurrence and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months for each offense.

Sec. 13-162.00.03 Inquiries, complaints.

1 (a) Any inquiries and/or complaints regarding prostitution and/or human trafficking to the
 2 Prince George’s County 311 Call Center shall be directed to the enforcing agencies of the
 3 County, including the Human Relations Commission.

4 (b) Upon request, the Human Relations Commission shall make available to property
 5 owners and landlords of rental properties requesting the information and/or the inquiries or
 6 complaints received regarding their rental properties.

7 (c) The Human Relations Commission shall make available resources regarding
 8 prostitution and/or human trafficking to property owners and landlords of rental properties.

9 **Sec. 13-162.00.04 Human Trafficking; Voluntary Registration, Training, and Certification.**

10 (a) Any person who is a property owner, landlord, landlord agent, or management staff that
 11 operates an apartment rental within the County shall be offered voluntary training for management
 12 employees on how to identify human trafficking activities and human trafficking victims.

13 (b) An owner and a manager of an apartment rental within the County may voluntarily
 14 register for human trafficking training with the Human Relations Commission. If an entity is owned
 15 by a corporation, the registered agent of the owner may register with the Human Relations
 16 Commission.

17 (c) Any voluntary registration shall be updated by the Human Relations Commission by the
 18 end of the 30th day after registration with the Human Relations Commission.

19 (d) The Human Relations Commission, in collaboration with the Prince George’s County
 20 Police Department, will provide voluntary training on human trafficking consisting of training for
 21 management staff of an apartment rental within the County at the cost of the participating apartment
 22 owners.

23 (e) Beginning on July 1, 2017, apartment rentals identified in Sec. 13-162.00.04 (a), may
 24 voluntarily biennially certify to the Human Relations Commission that management staff has
 25 completed the voluntary training. The Human Relations Commission shall issue regulations
 26 prescribing the process for biennial certification within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this
 27 Act.

28 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby
 29 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,
 30 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of
 31 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining
 32 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this

1 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
2 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,
3 or section.

4 SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
5 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this 15th day of November, 2016.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Derrick Leon Davis
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive