

HOUSE BILL 981

Q2

1lr1744

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Tax Sales – Limited Auction**

3 **PG 413–21**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the types of properties for which the tax collector in Prince
5 George's County shall conduct a certain limited auction prior to conducting a public
6 auction for property subject to tax liens; providing that any payments received for a
7 certain tax sale certificate that is void under certain circumstances shall be applied
8 to any taxes on the property that are in arrears; and generally relating to tax sales
9 of property in Prince George's County.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Tax – Property
12 Section 14–817(d)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
16 Article – Tax – Property
17 Section 14–833(h)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Tax – Property**

23 14–817.

24 (d) (1) This subsection applies only in Prince George's County.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2) In addition to the sale by public auction required under this section, the collector shall conduct a sale by limited auction prior to the public auction **OF ABANDONED PROPERTY CONSISTING OF EITHER A VACANT LOT OR IMPROVED PROPERTY CITED AS VACANT AND UNFIT FOR HABITATION ON A HOUSING OR BUILDING VIOLATION NOTICE.**

(3) The sale by limited auction required under paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be open to bids only from an individual who is:

- (i) employed in a public school located in Prince George's County;
- (ii) employed by the Prince George's County Police Department;
- (iii) employed by the Prince George's County Fire Department;
- (iv) employed by the Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff;
- (v) employed by the Prince George's County Department of Corrections;
- (vi) employed by the Prince George's County government in a position not included under item (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), or (v) of this paragraph;
- (vii) employed by the federal government;
- (viii) employed by a municipal government in Prince George's County;
- (ix) a veteran of any branch of the armed forces of the United States who has received an honorable discharge; or
- (x) a resident of Prince George's County.

(4) The collector shall include the date, time, and location of the limited auction required under this subsection in any notice of sale at public auction required under this subtitle.

(5) (i) The limited auction shall be subject to the same requirements for a public auction under this section.

(ii) The purchase of property at a limited auction shall be considered the same as a purchase at public auction under this section and shall be subject to the requirements of this subtitle in the same manner as a sale at public auction.

(iii) The collector shall establish a system to verify that individuals placing bids on property at the limited auction are eligible to do so under paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(iv) A certificate of sale for property purchased at a limited auction shall be void if the purchaser was not an eligible participant under paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(v) If a certificate of sale is void under subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph[,]:

1. ANY RIGHT OR INTEREST OF THE HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATE OF SALE IS VOID AND ANY PAYMENT RECEIVED BY THE COLLECTOR AT THE SALE SHALL BE FORFEITED AND APPLIED TO ANY TAXES IN ARREARS ON THE PROPERTY; AND

2. the property shall be listed at the next limited or public auction held if the property is still eligible to be sold under this subtitle.

(6) Property offered for sale during a limited auction that is not sold shall be offered for sale at public auction in accordance with this section.

14-833.

(h) The holder of a certificate of sale for abandoned property consisting of either a vacant lot or improved property cited as vacant and unfit for habitation on a housing or building violation notice in Prince George's County that is sold under § 14-817(d) of this subtitle may file a complaint to foreclose all rights of redemption in the property at any time after the date of sale.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.