# ENROLLMENT(S)



(5)

### COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### NOTICE

### D.C. LAW 9-191

"Unitary Rent Ceiling Adjustment Amendment Act of 1992".

Pursuant to Section 412 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, P. L. 93-198, "the Act", the Council of the District of Columbia adopted Bill No. 9-305 on first and second readings, October 6, 1992, and November 4, 1992, respectively. Following the signature of the Mayor on November 23, 1992, this legislation was assigned Act No. 9-312, published in the December 4, 1992, edition of the D.C. Register, (Vol. 39 page 9005) and transmitted to Congress on January 6, 1993 for a 30-day review, in accordance with Section 602(c)(1) of the Act.

The Council of the District of Columbia hereby gives notice that the 30-day Congressional Review Period has expired, and therefore, cites this enactment as D.C. Law 9-191, effective March 16, 1993.

JOHN A. WILSON Chairman of the Council

Dates Counted During the 30-day Congressional Review Period:

January 6,20,21,22,25,26,27

February 2,3,4,16,17,18,19,22,23,24,25,26

March 1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10,11,12,15

# Codification

AN ACT

# District of Columbia Code

D.C. ACT 9-312

( 1993 Supplement)

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## NOVEMBER 23, 1992

To amend the Rental Housing Act of 1985 to limit to one the number of rent ceiling adjustments which may be implemented in any one rent increase and to provide for the implementation of authorized but unimplemented rent ceiling adjustments; and to amend the Housing Regulations of the District of Columbia to provide for treble damages for the failure to return a security deposit rightfully owed to a tenant.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Unitary Rent Ceiling Adjustment Amendment Act of 1992".

Sec. 2. Section 208 of the Rental Housing Act of 1985, effective July 17, 1985 (D.C. Law 6-10; D.C. Code § 45-2518), is amended by adding a new subsection (h) to read as follows:

Section 45-2518

- "(h)(1) One year from the effective date of the Unitary Rent Ceiling Adjustment Amendment Act of 1992, unless otherwise ordered by the Rent Administrator, each adjustment in rent charged permitted by this section may implement not more than 1 authorized and previously unimplemented rent ceiling adjustment. If the difference between the rent ceiling and the rent charged for the rental unit consists of all or a portion of 1 previously unimplemented rent ceiling adjustment, the housing provider may elect to implement all or a portion of the difference.
- "(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent a housing provider, at his or her election, from delaying the implementation of any rent ceiling adjustment, or from implementing less than the full amount of any rent ceiling adjustment. A rent ceiling adjustment, or portion thereof, which remains unimplemented shall not expire and shall not be deemed forfeited or otherwise diminished.".
- Sec. 3. Article 290 of the Housing Regulations of the District of Columbia, effective August 11, 1955 (C.O. 55-1503; 14 DCMR Chapter 3), is amended by adding new subsections 2908.6 and 2908.7 to read as follows:

**DCMR** 

"2908.6 Any housing provider violating the provisions of these rules by failing to return a security deposit rightfully owed to a tenant in accordance with the requirements of this article shall be liable for the amount of the deposit withheld, or in the event of bad faith, for treble that amount.

"2908.7 For the purposes of subsection 2908.6, the term "bad faith" means any frivolous or unfounded refusal to return a security deposit, as required by law, that is motivated by a fraudulent, deceptive, misleading, dishonest, or unreasonably self-serving purpose and not by simple negligence, bad judgement, or an honest belief in the course of action taken.".

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect after a 30-day period of Congressional review following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council of the District of Columbia to override the veto) as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Code § 1-233(c)(1)), and publication in either the District of Columbia Register, the District of Columbia Statutes-at-Large, or the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations.

Cha/1man

Council of the District of Columbia

Mayor

District of Columbia

APPROVED: November 23, 1992



# COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Council Period Nine

RECORD OF OFFICIAL COUNCIL VOTE

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Secretary to the Council