

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 6338

LCO No. **5854**

Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by: (HSG)

AN ACT PERMITTING REMOVAL OF AN UNAUTHORIZED INDIVIDUAL FROM REAL PROPERTY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Dwelling unit", "owner", "rental agreement" and "tenant" have
the same meanings as provided in section 47a-1 of the general statutes;
and

5 (2) "Unauthorized person" means any individual who is unlawfully 6 occupying real property and who is not (A) a current or former tenant 7 of the owner of the real property, or (B) immediate family, as defined in 8 section 1-91 of the general statutes, of the owner of the real property.

9 (b) Any owner of real property, or such owner's authorized agent, 10 may request from a state marshal the immediate removal of any 11 unauthorized person pursuant to this section if:

12 (1) The person requesting such removal is the owner of the real 13 property, or such owner's authorized agent, that is being occupied by 14 such unauthorized person; (2) Such unauthorized person has unlawfully entered and remains orcontinues to reside on such owner's real property;

17 (3) Such owner or such owner's authorized agent has directed such18 unauthorized person to leave such owner's real property;

(4) Such unauthorized person cannot produce documentation,
correspondence or identification cards issued by any governmental
agency identifying that such unauthorized person resided on such real
property during the immediately preceding twelve months;

(5) Such unauthorized person cannot produce a lease signed by suchowner of real property, or such owner's authorized agent; and

(6) There is no pending litigation related to such real property
between such owner of real property and such unauthorized person
occupying such real property.

(c) To request the immediate removal of any unauthorized person,
the owner of the real property, or such owner's authorized agent, shall
submit a completed Affidavit Concerning the Removal of Persons
Unlawfully Occupying A Dwelling Unit to a state marshal. The
submitted affidavit shall be in substantially the following form:

AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF PERSONS
 UNLAWFULLY OCCUPYING A DWELLING UNIT

I, the owner or authorized agent of the owner of the real property located at, declare under the penalty of perjury that (initial each box):

1. ... I am the owner of the real property or the authorized agent ofthe owner of the real property.

40 2. I purchased the property on

3. ... An unauthorized person or persons have unlawfully enteredand are remaining or residing unlawfully on the real property.

43 4. ... I have directed the unauthorized person or persons to leave44 the real property, but they have not done so.

5. The person or persons are not current or former tenants
pursuant to any valid lease authorized by the property owner, and any
lease that may be produced by an occupant is fraudulent.

6. The unauthorized person or persons sought to be removed are
not an owner or a co-owner of the property and have not been listed on
the title to the property unless the person or persons have engaged in
slander of the title.

52 7. The unauthorized person or persons are not immediate family53 members of the property owner.

8. There is no litigation related to the real property pending
between the property owner and any person sought to be removed from
the real property.

9. ... I understand that a person or persons removed from the property pursuant to this procedure may bring a cause of action against me for any false statements made in this affidavit, and that as a result of such action I may be held liable for actual damages, penalties, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees.

62 10. ... I am requesting the state marshal to immediately remove the63 unauthorized person or persons from the property.

64 11. ... A copy of my valid government-issued identification is
65 attached, or I am an agent of the property owner, and documents
66 evidencing my authority to act on the property owner's behalf are
67 attached.

I HAVE READ EVERY STATEMENT MADE IN THIS AFFIDAVIT
AND EACH STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT. I UNDERSTAND
THAT THE STATEMENTS MADE IN THIS AFFIDAVIT ARE MADE
UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY, PUNISHABLE AS PROVIDED IN

72 SECTION 53A-156 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES.

73 Signed this day of, 20...

74 Witnessed by

- 75 ...
- 76 (Acknowledgment)

77 (d) Upon receipt of an affidavit pursuant to subsection (c) of this 78 section, the state marshal shall verify that the person submitting such 79 affidavit is the record owner of the real property or the authorized agent 80 of such record owner and appears otherwise entitled to relief under this 81 section. If verified, the state marshal shall, without delay, serve a notice 82 to immediately vacate on any unauthorized person occupying such real 83 property and shall put such record owner of such real property in 84 possession of such real property. Service may be accomplished by hand 85 delivery of the notice to an occupant of the real property or by posting 86 such notice on the front door or entrance of such real property. Such 87 state marshal shall attempt to verify the identity of each person 88 occupying the dwelling and note such identity on the return of services.

(e) Any person may bring a civil cause of action against the owner of
the real property or such owner's authorized agent for wrongful
removal under this section. A person harmed by a wrongful removal
under this section may be restored to possession of the real property and
may recover actual costs and damages incurred, statutory damages
equal to triple the fair market rent of the dwelling, court costs and
reasonable attorney's fees.

96 (f) Any owner or such owner's authorized agent who makes a false 97 statement in an affidavit submitted to a state marshal pursuant to the 98 provisions of subsection (c) of this section shall be subject to the 99 penalties for false statement under section 53a-157b of the general 100 statutes. 101 (g) Any unauthorized person who is served a notice to immediately 102 vacate the owner's real property pursuant to the provisions of 103 subsection (d) of this section shall be subject to the penalties for criminal 104 trespass in the second degree under section 53a-108 of the general 105 statutes.

(h) This section does not limit the rights of any owner of real property
or limit the authority of any law enforcement officer to arrest any
unlawful occupant for trespassing, vandalism, theft or other crimes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following
sections:Section 1October 1, 2025New section

Statement of Purpose:

To allow law enforcement to remove an individual who is unlawfully occupying real property in lieu of requiring a summary process action.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. GONZALEZ, 3rd Dist.; SEN. SAMPSON, 16th Dist. REP. SANCHEZ R., 25th Dist.; REP. SCOTT, 112th Dist. REP. ZULLO, 99th Dist.; REP. WEIR, 55th Dist. REP. MASTROFRANCESCO, 80th Dist.

<u>H.B. 6338</u>