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A BILL  
22-465

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



To amend An Act to provide for the abatement of nuisances in the District of Columbia by the Commissioners of said District, and for other purposes to allow the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (“DCRA”) to include on the list of registered vacant buildings transmitted to the Office of Tax and Revenue and to subject to a registration fee those vacant and blighted vacant buildings that have not been authorized as exempt from real estate taxes by the United States Department of State’s Office of Foreign Missions (“OFM”), to require DCRA to maintain and publish a list of vacant and blighted vacant buildings that have been authorized as exempt from real estate taxes by OFM; to make a conforming amendment to section 47-1011 of the District of Columbia Official Code; and to establish a Foreign Government Owned Real Property Task Force to address matters relating to real property owned by foreign governments or their instrumentalities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Foreign Government Owned Vacant and Blighted Building Amendment Act of 2018”.

Sec. 2. An Act To provide for the abatement of nuisances in the District of Columbia by the Commissioners of said District, and for other purposes, approved April 14, 1906 (34 Stat. 114; D.C. Official Code § 42-3131.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section (6)(b)(2) (D.C. Official Code § 42-3131.06(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

30                   “(2) Authorized as exempt from real estate taxes by the United States Department  
31 of State’s Office of Foreign Missions on the basis of its use for diplomatic or consular purposes  
32 or for the official business of an international organization.”.

33                   (b) Section 9(a) (D.C. Official Code § 42-3131.09(a)) is amended by striking the phrase  
34 “instrumentalities or by a foreign government or its instrumentalities.” and inserting the phrase  
35 “instrumentalities, or has been authorized as exempt from real estate taxes by the United States  
36 Department of State’s Office of Foreign Missions on the basis of its use for diplomatic or  
37 consular purposes or for the official business of an international organization.” in its place.

38                   (c) A new section 18a is added to read as follows:

39                   “Sec. 18a. Vacant and blighted vacant buildings belonging to foreign governments.

40                   “(a) The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs shall publish and deliver  
41 semiannually to the Mayor, the Council, and the United States Department of State’s Office of  
42 Foreign Missions (“OFM”) a list identifying each building that is:

43                   “(1) Authorized as exempt from real estate taxes by OFM on the basis of its use  
44 for diplomatic or consular purposes or for the official business of an international organization;  
45 and

46                   “(2) Has been determined to be a vacant building or blighted vacant building  
47 pursuant to this act.

48                   “(b) Nothing in this act shall be construed to impose any obligation on any foreign  
49 government or other entity relating to any building that has been authorized as exempt from real

50 estate taxes by OFM on the basis of its use for diplomatic or consular purposes or for the official  
51 business of an international organization.”.

52           Sec. 3. Section 47-1011 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended by striking  
53 the phrase “owned by foreign governments for legation purposes” and inserting the phrase  
54 “authorized as exempt from real estate taxes by the United States Department of State’s Office of  
55 Foreign Missions on the basis of its use for diplomatic or consular purposes or for the official  
56 business of an international organization” in its place.

57           Sec. 4. Foreign government owned building task force.

58           (a) There is established a Foreign Government Owned Real Property Task Force (“Task  
59 Force”) with the purpose of serving as a collaborative body to address matters relating to real  
60 property, including all buildings located on such real property, owned by foreign governments or  
61 their instrumentalities.

62           (b) The Task Force shall meet on a quarterly basis to review and identify issues with real  
63 property owned by foreign governments or their instrumentalities to include, but not limited to:

64                   (1) The tax status of such property;

65                   (2) The condition of such property; and

66                   (3) Whether such property is in substantial compliance with District laws and  
67 regulations.

68           (c) The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

69                   (1) Three Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, each of whom shall be  
70 appointed by the Mayor from Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC”) 2B, ANC 2D,  
71 ANC 3C, or ANC 3F; provided, that no more than one Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner  
72 may be appointed from a single ANC.

73                   (2) The Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, or the  
74 Director’s designee;

75                   (3) The Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the Office of Tax and Revenue, or the  
76 Deputy Chief Financial Officer’s designee;

77                   (4) The Director of the Department of Public Works, or the Director’s designee;

78                   (5) The Secretary of the District of Columbia, or the Secretary’s designee;

79                   (6) The Chairman of the Council, or the Chairman’s designee; and

80                   (7) The Director of the United States Department of State’s Office of Foreign  
81 Missions (“OFM”), or the Director’s designee.

82                   (d) The Mayor shall designate one member of the Task Force to serve as its Chairperson.

83                   (e) On or before October 1 of each year, the Task Force shall submit a report of its  
84 findings and recommendations to address the issues outlined in subsection (b) of this section to  
85 the Mayor, the Council, and OFM.

86                   (f) The Task Force shall convene its first meeting no later than 90 days after the effective  
87 date of this act.

88                   Sec. 5. Applicability.

89           (a) This act shall apply upon the date of inclusion of its fiscal effect in an approved  
90 budget and financial plan.

91           (b) The Chief Financial Officer shall certify the date of the inclusion of the fiscal effect in  
92 an approved budget and financial plan, and provide notice to the Budget Director of the Council  
93 of the certification.

94           (c)(1) The Budget Director shall cause the notice of the certification to be  
95 published in the District of Columbia Register.

96           (2) The date of publication of the notice of the certification shall not affect the  
97 applicability of this act.

98           Sec. 6. Fiscal impact statement.

99           The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
100 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
101 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

102           Sec. 7. Effective date.

103           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
104 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as  
105 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
106 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
107 Columbia Register.