

they are hereby added to Title 17 of the Howard County Code, "Public Protection Services," subtitle, "Fire" to read as follows:

17.200—Rubbish, Debris, Noxious Weeds Declared to be a Nuisance

Any rubbish, trash, dry brush, noxious weeds or grass exceeding twelve inches in height, or debris or other material of a flammable nature which creates or tends to create a fire hazard endangering life or property on any lot or parcel of ground, except that weeds, brush, and grass shall be excluded from the provisions of this subtitle on land actively devoted to agricultural or conservation uses are hereby declared to be a public nuisance; and it shall be unlawful for anyone to permit any such rubbish, trash, dry brush, weeds or grass exceeding twelve inches in height, or debris or other material of a flammable nature to remain on any lot or parcel of ground.

17.201—Removal—Notice

It shall be the duty of the Director of Public Works to serve or cause to be served a notice upon the owner of any premises upon which rubbish, trash, dry brush, noxious weeds or grass, or debris or other material of a flammable nature are permitted in violation of the provisions of this subtitle and to demand the abatement of the nuisance within ten (10) days. The notice shall be in writing and sent by registered or certified mail.

17.202—Abatement

If the person so served does not abate the nuisance within ten (10) days the Director of Public Works may proceed to abate such nuisance, keeping an account of the expense of the abatement, and such expense shall be charged to and paid by such owners.

17.203—Lien

Charges for the abatement of such nuisance shall constitute a lien upon the premises. Whenever a bill for such charges remains unpaid for sixty (60) days after it has been rendered, the County Administrator may file with the Director of Finance a statement of lien claim. This statement shall contain a legal description of the premises, the expenses and costs incurred and the date the nuisance was abated, and a notice that the County claims a lien for this amount. These charges shall constitute a lien on the real property in the same manner as unpaid taxes constitute a lien on real property. Notice of such lien claim shall be mailed to the owner of the premises by the Director of Finance by registered or certified mail within ten (10) days of the filing by the County Administrator of such statement of lien claim. Provided, however, that failure of the owner to receive such notice shall not affect the right to foreclose the lien for such charges as provided in the following section.

17.204—Sale of Property

The Director of Finance shall proceed to sell and shall sell the real property upon which the said lien attaches in the same manner as now provided by law for the sale of real estate upon which taxes are in arrears.

Section 2. And be it further enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, That this Act shall take effect sixty (60) days after its enactment.

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on September 10, 1970.