

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 15.2-906 of the Code of Virginia, relating to a locality's power to secure*
 3 *buildings posing a significant threat to public safety.*

[H 1326]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 15.2-906 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 15.2-906. Authority to require removal, repair, etc., of buildings and other structures.
 9 Any locality may, by ordinance, provide that:

10 1. The owners of property therein, shall at such time or times as the governing body may prescribe,
 11 remove, repair or secure any building, wall or any other structure that might endanger the public health
 12 or safety of other residents of such locality;

13 2. The locality through its own agents or employees may remove, repair or secure any building, wall
 14 or any other structure that might endanger the public health or safety of other residents of such locality,
 15 if the owner and lienholder of such property, after reasonable notice and a reasonable time to do so, has
 16 failed to remove, repair, or secure the building, wall or other structure. For purposes of this section,
 17 repair may include maintenance work to the exterior of a building to prevent deterioration of the
 18 building or adjacent buildings. For purposes of this section, reasonable notice includes a written notice
 19 (i) mailed by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, sent to the last known address of the
 20 property owner and (ii) published once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper having general
 21 circulation in the locality. No action shall be taken by the locality to remove, repair, or secure any
 22 building, wall, or other structure for at least 30 days following the later of the return of the receipt or
 23 newspaper publication, *except that the locality may take action to prevent unauthorized access to the*
 24 *building within seven days of such notice if the structure is deemed to pose a significant threat to public*
 25 *safety and such fact is stated in the notice;*

26 3. In the event the locality, through its own agents or employees, removes, repairs, or secures any
 27 building, wall, or any other structure after complying with the notice provisions of this section, the cost
 28 or expenses thereof shall be chargeable to and paid by the owners of such property and may be
 29 collected by the locality as taxes are collected;

30 4. Every charge authorized by this section or § 15.2-900 with which the owner of any such property
 31 has been assessed and that remains unpaid shall constitute a lien against such property ranking on a
 32 parity with liens for unpaid local taxes and enforceable in the same manner as provided in Articles 3
 33 (§ 58.1-3940 et seq.) and 4 (§ 58.1-3965 et seq.) of Chapter 39 of Title 58.1. A locality may waive such
 34 liens in order to facilitate the sale of the property. Such liens may be waived only as to a purchaser who
 35 is unrelated by blood or marriage to the owner and who has no business association with the owner. All
 36 such liens shall remain a personal obligation of the owner of the property at the time the liens were
 37 imposed; *and*

38 5. A locality may prescribe civil penalties, not to exceed a total of \$1,000, for violations of any
 39 ordinance adopted pursuant to this section.

ENROLLED

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