HOUSING LAW OF MICHIGAN (EXCERPT)
Act 167 of 1917

ARTICLE VII
ENFORCEMENT.

125.521, 125.522 Repealed. 1972, Act 230, Eff. Jan. 1, 1973.

Compiler's note: The repealed sections pertained to plans and specifications for the construction or alteration of dwellings, buildings, or structures.

125.523 Administration of act; joint administration and enforcement agreement.

Sec. 123. The governing body of a municipality to which this act by its terms applies, or the governing body of a municipality which adopts the provisions of this act by reference, shall designate a local officer or agency which shall administer the provisions of the act, and if no such officer or agency is designated then the local governing body shall be responsible for administration of the act. Municipalities may provide, by agreement, for the joint administration and enforcement of this act where such joint enforcement is practicable.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968.

125.525 Registry of owners and premises; transfer of ownership.

Sec. 125. (1) The enforcing agency may maintain a registry of owners and premises regulated by this act.

(2) If the enforcing agency maintains a registry of owners and premises, the owner of a multiple dwelling or rooming house containing units that will be offered to let, or to hire, for more than 6 months of a calendar year shall register with the enforcing agency the owner's name, the address of the owner's residence or usual place of business, and the location of the multiple dwelling or rooming house. The owner shall register within 60 days following the day on which any part of the premises is offered for occupancy.

(3) If the premises are managed or operated by an agent, the agent's name and place of business must be entered with the name of the owner in the registry under subsection (2).

(4) A transfer of ownership to another person is not a change of ownership for purposes of this act if the owner, owners, trustors, grantors, or members of the transferring person are the same as the owner, owners, trustees, grantees, or members of the recipient person, or both the transferring person and recipient person are under common control, and the property being transferred was inspected in accordance with this act during the 2-year period immediately preceding the date of that transfer or a longer period if previously determined by a local municipality inspection ordinance. As used in this subsection, "person" means an individual or a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability limited partnership, trust, individual retirement account, or other legal person recognized in this state.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968;—Am. 2016, Act 14, Eff. May 16, 2016;—Am. 2021, Act 14, Eff. Aug. 17, 2021.

125.526 Inspection; inspection by federal government as substitute; basis; inspectors; consent to enter leasehold; duties of owner; access during reasonable hours; request by owner to enter leasehold; multiple lessees; discrimination prohibited; fees; report; dwelling with child residing; ordinance; "lease" defined.

Sec. 126. (1) A local governmental unit is not required to inspect a multiple dwelling or other dwelling unless the local governmental unit receives a complaint from a lessee of a violation of this act.

(2) Subject to subsection (1), the enforcing agency shall inspect multiple dwellings and other dwellings regulated by this act in accordance with this act. If a local governmental unit adopts an ordinance providing for inspections of multiple dwellings or other dwellings on a basis described in subsection (4)(a), (c), (d), or (e), both of the following apply:

(a) The period between inspections of a multiple dwelling or rooming house shall not be longer than 4 years, or 6 years if the most recent inspection of the premises found no violations of this act and the multiple dwelling or rooming house has not changed ownership during the 6-year period.

(b) All other dwellings regulated by this act may be inspected at reasonable intervals.

(3) Inspections of multiple dwellings or other dwellings conducted by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under the real estate assessment center inspection process or by other government agencies may be accepted by a local governmental unit and an enforcing agency as a substitute for inspections required by a local enforcing agency. To the extent permitted under applicable law, a local enforcing agency or its designee may exercise inspection authority delegated by law or agreement from other agencies or authorities that perform inspections required under other state law or federal law.

(4) An inspection shall be conducted in the manner best calculated to secure compliance with this act and

appropriate to the needs of the community, including, but not limited to, on 1 or more of the following bases:

(a) An area basis, under which all the regulated premises in a predetermined geographical area are inspected simultaneously, or within a short period of time.

(b) A complaint basis, under which premises that are the subject of complaints of violations are inspected within a reasonable time.

(c) A recurrent violation basis, under which premises that have a high incidence of recurrent or uncorrected violations are inspected more frequently.

(d) A compliance basis, under which a premises brought into compliance before the expiration of a certificate of compliance or any requested repair order may be issued a certificate of compliance for the maximum renewal certification period authorized by the local governmental unit.

(e) A percentage basis, under which a local governmental unit establishes a percentage of units in a multiple dwelling to be inspected in order to issue a certificate of compliance for the multiple dwelling.

(5) An inspection shall be carried out by the enforcing agency, or by the enforcing agency and representatives of other agencies that form a team to undertake an inspection under this and other applicable acts.

(6) Except as provided in subsections (7) to (9) and (11), an inspector or team of inspectors must request and receive consent from the lessee to enter before entering a leasehold regulated by this act to undertake an inspection.

(7) The owner of a leasehold shall notify the lessee of the enforcing agency's request to inspect a leasehold, shall make a good-faith effort to obtain the lessee's consent for an inspection, and, if the owner obtains the lessee's consent for an inspection, shall arrange for the inspection by the enforcing agency.

(8) The owner of a leasehold shall provide the enforcing agency access to the leasehold for an inspection during reasonable hours if any of the following apply:

(a) The lease authorizes an enforcing agency inspector to enter the leasehold for an inspection.

(b) The lessee has made a complaint to the enforcing agency.

(c) The leasehold is vacant.

(d) The enforcing agency serves an administrative warrant ordering the owner to provide access.

(e) The lessee has consented to an inspection under subsection (7). If a lessee is not present during the inspection, the enforcing agency may rely on the owner's representation to the enforcing agency that the lessee has consented to the enforcing agency's inspection.

(9) The lessee shall provide the enforcing agency access to the leasehold for an inspection during reasonable hours if any of the following apply:

(a) The lease authorizes an enforcing agency inspector to enter the leasehold for an inspection.

(b) The lessee has made a complaint to the enforcing agency.

(c) The enforcing agency serves an administrative warrant ordering the lessee to provide access.

(d) The lessee has given consent.

(10) If a lessee who refused an inspection by the enforcing agency vacates a leasehold before an inspection by the enforcing agency, the owner of the leasehold shall notify the enforcing agency within 10 days after the leasehold is vacated.

(11) Before entering a leasehold regulated by this act, the owner of the leasehold shall request and obtain permission to enter the leasehold. However, in the case of an emergency, including, but not limited to, fire, flood, or other threat of serious injury or death, the owner may enter at any time.

(12) The owner of a leasehold shall provide access to the enforcing agency to areas of the multiple dwelling or other dwelling that are not part of the leasehold or that are open to public view.

(13) For multiple lessees in a leasehold, notifying at least 1 lessee and requesting and obtaining the consent of at least 1 lessee satisfies the notice and consent requirements of subsections (6) and (7).

(14) The enforcing agency or the owner shall not discriminate against a lessee on the basis of whether the lessee consents to or refuses entry to the leasehold for an inspection by the enforcing agency.

(15) The enforcing agency shall not discriminate against an owner who has met the requirements of subsection (7) because a lessee refuses the enforcing agency entry to a leasehold for an inspection under this act.

(16) The enforcing agency may establish and charge a reasonable fee for inspections conducted under this act. The fee shall not exceed the actual, reasonable cost of providing the inspection for which the fee is charged. An inspection fee is not required to be paid more than 6 months before the inspection is to take place. An owner or property manager is not liable for an inspection fee if the inspection is not performed and the enforcing agency is the direct cause of the failure to perform the inspection.

(17) If requested, an enforcing agency or a local governmental unit shall produce a report on the income and expenses of the inspection program for the preceding fiscal year. The report shall state the amount of the

fees assessed by the enforcing agency, the costs incurred in performing inspections, and the number of units inspected. The report shall be provided to the requesting party within 90 days after the request is made. The enforcing agency or local governmental unit may produce the report electronically. If the enforcing agency does not have readily available access to the information required for the report, the enforcing agency may charge the requesting party a fee not greater than the actual reasonable cost of compiling and providing the information. If an enforcing agency charges a fee under this subsection, the enforcing agency shall include in the report the costs of compiling and providing the information.

(18) If a complaint identifies a multiple dwelling or other dwelling regulated under this act in which an individual under 18 years of age is residing, the dwelling shall be inspected before any inspection in response to a nonemergency complaint.

(19) Subject to section 8, a local governmental unit may adopt an ordinance to implement this section.

(20) When used in this act as a noun, "lease" means a written or unwritten agreement or contract that sets forth the terms and conditions, rights and obligations of each party with respect to a residential dwelling, dwelling unit, rooming unit, building, premises, or structure that is not occupied by the owner of record.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968;—Am. 1997, Act 200, Imd. Eff. Jan. 2, 1998;—Am. 2000, Act 479, Imd. Eff. Jan. 11, 2001;—Am. 2008, Act 408, Imd. Eff. Jan. 6, 2009;—Am. 2016, Act 14, Eff. May 16, 2016;—Am. 2017, Act 169, Eff. Feb. 19, 2018.

125.527 Inspection; warrants for nonemergency situation; no warrant required in emergency.

Sec. 127. (1) In a nonemergency situation where the owner or occupant demands a warrant for inspection of the premises, the enforcing agency shall obtain a warrant from a court of competent jurisdiction. The enforcing agency shall prepare the warrant, stating the address of the building to be inspected, the nature of the inspection, as defined in this or other applicable acts, and the reasons for the inspection. It shall be appropriate and sufficient to set forth the basis for inspection (e.g. complaint, area or recurrent violation basis) established in this section, in other applicable acts or in rules or regulations. The warrant shall also state that it is issued pursuant to this section, and that it is for the purposes set forth in this and other acts which require that inspections be conducted.

(2) If the court finds that the warrant is in proper form and in accord with this section, it shall be issued forthwith.

(3) In the event of an emergency no warrant shall be required.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968.

125.528 Inspections; public policy; records; checklist of violations.

Sec. 128. (1) It is the policy of this state that the inspection procedures set forth in this article are established in the public interest, to secure the health and safety of the occupants of dwellings and of the general public.

(2) The enforcing agency shall keep a record of all inspections.

(3) The enforcing agency shall make available to the general public a checklist of commonly recurring violations for use in examining premises offered for occupancy.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968.

125.529 Certificate of compliance; issuance; inspection.

Sec. 129. (1) Units in multiple dwellings or rooming houses shall not be occupied unless a certificate of compliance has been issued by the enforcing agency. The certificates shall be issued only upon an inspection of the premises by the enforcing agency, except as provided in section 131. The certificate shall be issued within 15 days after written application therefor if the dwelling at the date of the application is entitled thereto.

(2) A violation of this act shall not prevent the issuance of a certificate, but the enforcing agency shall not issue a certificate when the existing conditions constitute a hazard to the health or safety of those who may occupy the premises.

(3) Inspections shall be made prior to first occupancy of multiple dwellings and rooming houses, if the construction or alteration is completed and first occupancy will occur after the effective date of this article. Where first occupancy will occur before the effective date of this article, inspection shall be made within 1 year after the effective date of this article. Upon a finding that there is no condition that would constitute a hazard to the health and safety of the occupants, and that the premises are otherwise fit for occupancy, the certificate shall be issued. If the finding is of a condition that would constitute a hazard to health or safety, no certificate shall be issued, and an order to comply with the act shall be issued immediately and served upon the owner in accordance with section 132. On reinspection and proof of compliance, the order shall be rescinded and a certificate issued.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968.

125.530 Certificate withheld; premises not to be occupied; conditions of issuance; suspension of rent payments, escrow; account for rent and possession.

Sec. 130. (1) When a certificate is withheld pending compliance, no premises which have not been occupied for dwelling or rooming purposes shall be so occupied, and those premises which have been or are occupied for dwelling or rooming purposes may be ordered vacated until reinspection and proof of compliance in the discretion of the enforcing agency.

(2) A certificate of compliance shall be issued on condition that the premises remain in safe, healthful and fit condition for occupancy. If upon reinspection the enforcing agency determines that conditions exist which constitute a hazard to health or safety, the certificate shall be immediately suspended as to affected areas, and the areas may be vacated as provided in subsection (1).

(3) The duty to pay rent in accordance with the terms of any lease or agreement or under the provisions of any statute shall be suspended and the suspended rentals shall be paid into an escrow account as provided in subsection (4), during that period when the premises have not been issued a certificate of compliance, or when such certificate, once issued, has been suspended. This subsection does not apply until the owner has had a reasonable time after the effective date of this article or after notice of violations to make application for a temporary certificate, as provided in section 131. Nor does this subsection apply where the owner establishes that the conditions which constitute a hazard to health or safety were caused by the occupant or occupants. The rent, once suspended, shall again become due in accordance with the terms of the lease or agreement or statute from and after the time of reinstatement of the certificate, or where a temporary certificate has been issued, as provided in section 131.

(4) Rents due for the period during which rent is suspended shall be paid into an escrow account established by the enforcing officer or agency, to be paid thereafter to the landlord or any other party authorized to make repairs, to defray the cost of correcting the violations. The enforcing agency shall return any unexpended part of sums paid under this section, attributable to the unexpired portion of the rental period, where the occupant terminates his tenancy or right to occupy prior to the undertaking to repair.

(5) When the certificate of compliance has been suspended, or has not been issued, and the rents thereafter withheld are not paid into the escrow account, actions for rent and for possession of the premises for nonpayment of rent may be maintained, subject to such defenses as the tenant or occupant may have upon the lease or contract.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968.

125.531 Certificate; application; temporary certificates; fee.

Sec. 131. (1) An owner shall apply for a certificate of compliance. Inspection and issuance of certificates shall be in accordance with the requirements of this act and with procedures established by the enforcing agency. The enforcing agency may authorize the issuance of temporary certificates without inspection for those premises in which there are no violations of record as of the effective date of this article, and shall issue such temporary certificates upon application in cases where inspections are not conducted within a reasonable time. Temporary certificates shall also be issued for premises with violations of record, whether existing before or after the effective date of this article, when the owner can show proof of having undertaken to correct such conditions, or when the municipality has been authorized to make repairs, or when a receiver has been appointed, or when an owner rehabilitation plan has been accepted by the court.

(2) An application for a certificate shall be made when the owners, or any of them, enroll in the registry of owners and premises. If the owner fails to register, any occupant of unregistered or uncertified premises may make application.

(3) A fee of $10.00 shall be paid by the applicant at the time the certificate is issued.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968.

125.532 Violations; recording; notice; serious and imminent hazard; order to correct, reasonable time; reinspection; notice to department of health and human services; "serious and imminent hazard" defined.

Sec. 132. (1) If, on inspection, the premises or any part of the premises are found to be in violation of any provision of this act, the enforcing agency shall record the violation in the registry of owners and premises.

(2) The enforcing agency shall notify the owner in writing of the violation. The enforcing agency shall notify the occupant in writing of the violation only if the violation constitutes a serious and imminent hazard to the health or safety of the occupant. The notice must state the date of the inspection, the name of the inspector, the nature of the violation, the specific section of this act that was violated, whether the violation

constitutes a serious and imminent hazard to the health or safety of the occupants, and the time within which the correction must be completed. The notice required under this subsection must be provided in a manner reasonably calculated to give actual notice of the violation to the owner and the occupant.

(3) If an inspector determines that a violation constitutes a serious and imminent hazard to the health or safety of the occupants, under circumstances where the premises cannot be vacated, the enforcing agency shall order the violation corrected within the shortest reasonable time. The owner shall notify the enforcing agency of having begun compliance within 3 days. All other violations must be corrected within a reasonable time.

(4) The enforcing agency shall reinspect after a reasonable time to ascertain whether the violation has been corrected.

(5) If an inspector determines that a violation constitutes a serious and imminent hazard to the health or safety of the occupants, the enforcing agency shall notify the department of health and human services within 48 hours. The notice must state the date of the inspection, the name of the inspector, the nature of the violation, the specific section of this act that was violated, whether the violation constitutes a serious and imminent hazard to the health or safety of the occupants, and the time within which the correction must be completed. The department of health and human services shall check the address of the premises against the list of rent-vendored family independence program recipients.

(6) As used in this section, "serious and imminent hazard" means a dangerous condition in a premises that could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious bodily harm to the occupants of the premises if that dangerous condition is not immediately corrected by the owner.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968;—Am. 2000, Act 479, Imd. Eff. Jan. 11, 2001;—Am. 2023, Act 213, Eff. Feb. 13, 2024.

125.533 Compliance by owner and occupant.

Sec. 133. (1) The owner of premises regulated by this act shall comply with all applicable provisions of the act.

(2) The occupant of premises regulated by this act shall comply with provisions of the act specifically applicable to him.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968.

125.534 Noncompliance with notice of violation; actions; parties; motion for temporary relief; service of complaint and summons; filing notice of pendency of action; orders and determinations; repair or removal of structure; exception; costs; order approving expenses; lien; authority of municipality; “urban core cities” defined.

Sec. 134. (1) If the owner or occupant fails to comply with the order contained in the notice of violation, the enforcing agency may bring an action to enforce this act and to abate or enjoin the violation.

(2) An owner or occupant of the premises upon which a violation exists may bring an action to enforce this act in his or her own name. Upon application by the enforcing agency, or upon motion of the party filing the complaint, the local enforcing agency may be substituted for, or joined with, the complainant in the discretion of the court.

(3) If the violation is uncorrected and creates an imminent danger to the health and safety of the occupants of the premises, or if there are no occupants and the violation creates an imminent danger to the health and safety of the public, the enforcing agency shall file a motion for a preliminary injunction or other temporary relief appropriate to remove the danger during the pendency of the action.

(4) Owners and lienholders of record or owners and lienholders ascertained by the complainant with the exercise of reasonable diligence shall be served with a copy of the complaint and a summons. The complainant shall also file a notice of the pendency of the action with the appropriate county register of deeds office where the premises are located.

(5) The court of jurisdiction shall make orders and determinations consistent with the objectives of this act. The court may enjoin the maintenance of unsafe, unhealthy, or unsanitary conditions, or violations of this act, and may order the defendant to make repairs or corrections necessary to abate the conditions. The court may authorize the enforcing agency to repair or to remove the building or structure. If an occupant is not the cause of an unsafe, unhealthy, or unsanitary condition, or a violation of this act, and is the complainant, the court may authorize the occupant to correct the violation and deduct the cost from the rent upon terms the court determines just. If the court finds that the occupant is the cause of an unsafe, unhealthy, or unsanitary condition, or a violation of this act, the court may authorize the owner to correct the violation and assess the cost against the occupant or the occupant's security deposit.

(6) A building or structure shall not be removed unless the cost of repair of the building or structure will be

greater than the state equalized value of the building or structure except in urban core cities or local units of government that are adjacent to or contiguous to an urban core city that have adopted stricter standards to expedite the rehabilitation or removal of a boarded or abandoned building or structure that remains either vacant or boarded, or both, and a significant attempt has not been made to rehabilitate the building or structure for a period of 24 consecutive months.

(7) If the expense of repair or removal is not provided for, the court may enter an order approving the expense and placing a lien on the real property for the payment of the expense. The order may establish and provide for the priority of the lien as a senior lien, except as to tax and assessment liens, and except as to a recorded mortgage of first priority, recorded prior to all other liens of record if, at the time of recording of that mortgage or at a time subsequent, a certificate of compliance as provided for in this act is in effect on the subject property. The order may also specify the time and manner for foreclosure of the lien if the lien is not satisfied. A true copy of the order shall be filed with the appropriate county register of deeds office where the real property is located within 10 days after entry of the order to perfect the lien granted in the order.

(8) This act does not preempt, preclude, or interfere with the authority of a municipality to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the public through ordinance, charter, or other means.

(9) As used in this section, "urban core cities" means qualified local governmental units as that term is defined in section 2 of the obsolete property rehabilitation act, 2000 PA 146, MCL 125.2782.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968;—Am. 1976, Act 116, Imd. Eff. May 14, 1976;—Am. 2003, Act 80, Imd. Eff. July 23, 2003.

125.535 Receiver; appointment, termination; purpose; powers; expenses.

Sec. 135. (1) When a suit has been brought to enforce this act against the owner the court may appoint a receiver of the premises.

(2) When the court finds that there are adequate grounds for the appointment of a receiver, it shall appoint the municipality or a proper local agency or officer, or any competent person, as receiver. In the discretion of the court no bond need be required. The receivership shall terminate at the discretion of the court.

(3) The purpose of a receivership shall be to repair, renovate and rehabilitate the premises as needed to make the building comply with the provisions of this act, and where ordered by the court, to remove a building. The receiver shall promptly comply with the charge upon him in his official capacity and restore the premises to a safe, decent and sanitary condition, or remove the building.

(4) Subject to the control of the court the receiver shall have full and complete powers necessary to make the building comply with the provisions of this act. He may collect rents, and other revenue, hold them against the claim of prior assignees of such rents, and other revenue, and apply them to the expenses of making the building comply with the provisions of this act. He may manage and let rental units, issue receivership certificates, contract for all construction and rehabilitation as needed to make the building comply with the provisions of this act, and exercise other powers the court deems proper to the effective administration of the receivership.

(5) When expenses of the receivership are not otherwise provided for, the court may enter an order approving the expenses and providing that there shall be a lien on the real property for the payment thereof. The provisions of subsection (7) of section 134 as to the contents and filing of an order are applicable to the order herein provided for.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968.

125.536 Additional remedies; occupant's action; concurrent remedies.

Sec. 136. (1) When the owner of a dwelling regulated by this act permits unsafe, unsanitary or unhealthful conditions to exist unabated in any portion of the dwelling, whether a portion designated for the exclusive use and occupation of residents or a part of the common areas, where such condition exists in violation of this act, any occupant, after notice to the owner and a failure thereafter to make the necessary corrections, shall have an action against the owner for such damages he has actually suffered as a consequence of the condition. When the condition is a continuing interference with the use and occupation of the premises, the occupant shall also have injunctive and other relief appropriate to the abatement of the condition.

(2) Remedies under this section shall be in addition to such other relief as may be obtained by seeking enforcement of the section authorizing suits by a local enforcement agency. The remedies shall be concurrent. When several remedies are available hereunder, the court may order any relief not inconsistent with the objectives of this act, and calculated to achieve compliance with it.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968.

125.537 Common law rights retained.

Sec. 137. The enumeration of rights of action under this article shall not limit or derogate rights of action at common law.

History: Add. 1968, Act 286, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968.

125.538 Dangerous building prohibited.

Sec. 138. It is unlawful for any owner or agent thereof to keep or maintain any dwelling or part thereof which is a dangerous building as defined in section 139.

History: Add. 1969, Act 61, Eff. Sept. 1, 1969.

125.539 "Dangerous building" defined.

Sec. 139. As used in sections 138 to 142, "dangerous building" means a building or structure that has 1 or more of the following defects or is in 1 or more of the following conditions:

(a) A door, aisle, passageway, stairway, or other means of exit does not conform to the approved fire code of the city, village, or township in which the building or structure is located.

(b) A portion of the building or structure is damaged by fire, wind, flood, deterioration, neglect, abandonment, vandalism, or other cause so that the structural strength or stability of the building or structure is appreciably less than it was before the damage and does not meet the minimum requirements of this act or a building code of the city, village, or township in which the building or structure is located for a new building or structure, purpose, or location.

(c) A part of the building or structure is likely to fall, become detached or dislodged, or collapse and injure persons or damage property.

(d) A portion of the building or structure has settled to an extent that walls or other structural portions of the building or structure have materially less resistance to wind than is required in the case of new construction by this act or a building code of the city, village, or township in which the building or structure is located.

(e) The building or structure, or a part of the building or structure, because of dilapidation, deterioration, decay, faulty construction, the removal or movement of some portion of the ground necessary for the support, or for other reason, is likely to partially or completely collapse, or some portion of the foundation or underpinning of the building or structure is likely to fall or give way.

(f) The building, structure, or a part of the building or structure is manifestly unsafe for the purpose for which it is used.

(g) The building or structure is damaged by fire, wind, or flood, is dilapidated or deteriorated and becomes an attractive nuisance to children who might play in the building or structure to their danger, becomes a harbor for vagrants, criminals, or immoral persons, or enables persons to resort to the building or structure for committing a nuisance or an unlawful or immoral act.

(h) A building or structure used or intended to be used for dwelling purposes, including the adjoining grounds, because of dilapidation, decay, damage, faulty construction or arrangement, or for other reason, is unsanitary or unfit for human habitation, is in a condition that the health officer determines is likely to cause sickness or disease, or is likely to injure the health, safety, or general welfare of people living in the dwelling.

(i) A building or structure is vacant, dilapidated, and open at door or window, leaving the interior of the building exposed to the elements or accessible to entrance by trespassers.

(j) A building or structure remains unoccupied for a period of 180 consecutive days or longer, and is not listed as being available for sale, lease, or rent with a real estate broker licensed under article 25 of the occupational code, 1980 PA 299, MCL 339.2401 to 339.2518. For purposes of this subdivision, "building or structure" includes, but is not limited to, a commercial building or structure. This subdivision does not apply to either of the following:

(*i*) A building or structure if the owner or agent does both of the following:

(A) Notifies a local law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction the building or structure is located that the building or structure will remain unoccupied for a period of 180 consecutive days. The notice shall be given to the local law enforcement agency by the owner or agent not more than 30 days after the building or structure becomes unoccupied.

(B) Maintains the exterior of the building or structure and adjoining grounds in accordance with this act or a building code of the city, village, or township in which the building or structure is located.

(*ii*) A secondary dwelling of the owner that is regularly unoccupied for a period of 180 days or longer each year, if the owner notifies a local law enforcement agency in whose jurisdiction the dwelling is located that the dwelling will remain unoccupied for a period of 180 consecutive days or more each year. An owner who has given the notice prescribed by this subparagraph shall notify the law enforcement agency not more than 30 days after the dwelling no longer qualifies for this exception. As used in this subparagraph, "secondary

dwelling" means a dwelling, including, but not limited to, a vacation home, hunting cabin, or summer home, that is occupied by the owner or a member of the owner's family during part of a year.

History: Add. 1969, Act 61, Eff. Sept. 1, 1969;—Am. 1992, Act 113, Eff. Mar. 31, 1993;—Am. 1992, Act 144, Eff. Mar. 31, 1993;—Am. 2003, Act 55, Imd. Eff. July 14, 2003.

125.540 Notice of dangerous building; contents; hearing officer; service.

Sec. 140. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act, if a building or structure is found to be a dangerous building, the enforcing agency shall issue a notice that the building or structure is a dangerous building.

(2) The notice shall be served on the owner, agent, or lessee that is registered with the enforcing agency under section 125. If an owner, agent, or lessee is not registered under section 125, the notice shall be served on each owner of or party in interest in the building or structure in whose name the property appears on the last local tax assessment records.

(3) The notice shall specify the time and place of a hearing on whether the building or structure is a dangerous building. The person to whom the notice is directed shall have the opportunity to show cause at the hearing why the hearing officer should not order the building or structure to be demolished, otherwise made safe, or properly maintained.

(4) The hearing officer shall be appointed by the mayor, village president, or township supervisor to serve at his or her pleasure. The hearing officer shall be a person who has expertise in housing matters including, but not limited to, an engineer, architect, building contractor, building inspector, or member of a community housing organization. An employee of the enforcing agency shall not be appointed as hearing officer. The enforcing agency shall file a copy of the notice that the building or structure is a dangerous building with the hearing officer.

(5) The notice shall be in writing and shall be served upon the person to whom the notice is directed either personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the owner or party in interest at the address shown on the tax records. If a notice is served on a person by certified mail, a copy of the notice shall also be posted upon a conspicuous part of the building or structure. The notice shall be served upon the owner or party in interest at least 10 days before the date of the hearing included in the notice.

History: Add. 1969, Act 61, Eff. Sept. 1, 1969;—Am. 1992, Act 144, Eff. Mar. 31, 1993.

125.541 Hearing; testimony; determination to close proceedings or order building or structure demolished, made safe, or properly maintained; failure to appear or noncompliance with order; hearing; enforcement; reimbursement and notice of cost; lien; remedies.

Sec. 141. (1) At a hearing prescribed by section 140, the hearing officer shall take testimony of the enforcing agency, the owner of the property, and any interested party. Not more than 5 days after completion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall render a decision either closing the proceedings or ordering the building or structure demolished, otherwise made safe, or properly maintained.

(2) If the hearing officer determines that the building or structure should be demolished, otherwise made safe, or properly maintained, the hearing officer shall enter an order that specifies what action the owner, agent, or lessee shall take and sets a date by which the owner, agent, or lessee shall comply with the order. If the building is a dangerous building under section 139(j), the order may require the owner or agent to maintain the exterior of the building and adjoining grounds owned by the owner of the building including, but not limited to, the maintenance of lawns, trees, and shrubs.

(3) If the owner, agent, or lessee fails to appear or neglects or refuses to comply with the order issued under subsection (2), the hearing officer shall file a report of the findings and a copy of the order with the legislative body of the city, village, or township not more than 5 days after the date for compliance set in the order and request that necessary action be taken to enforce the order. If the legislative body of the city, village, or township has established a board of appeals under section 141c, the hearing officer shall file the report of the findings and a copy of the order with the board of appeals and request that necessary action be taken to enforce the order. A copy of the findings and order of the hearing officer shall be served on the owner, agent, or lessee in the manner prescribed in section 140.

(4) The legislative body or the board of appeals of the city, village, or township, as applicable, shall set a date not less than 30 days after the hearing prescribed in section 140 for a hearing on the findings and order of the hearing officer. The legislative body or the board of appeals shall give notice to the owner, agent, or lessee in the manner prescribed in section 140 of the time and place of the hearing. At the hearing, the owner, agent, or lessee shall be given the opportunity to show cause why the order should not be enforced. The legislative body or the board of appeals of the city, village, or township shall either approve, disapprove, or modify the

order. If the legislative body or board of appeals approves or modifies the order, the legislative body shall take all necessary action to enforce the order. If the order is approved or modified, the owner, agent, or lessee shall comply with the order within 60 days after the date of the hearing under this subsection. For an order of demolition, if the legislative body or the board of appeals of the city, village, or township determines that the building or structure has been substantially destroyed by fire, wind, flood, deterioration, neglect, abandonment, vandalism, or other cause, and the cost of repair of the building or structure will be greater than the state equalized value of the building or structure, the owner, agent, or lessee shall comply with the order of demolition within 21 days after the date of the hearing under this subsection. If the estimated cost of repair exceeds the state equalized value of the building or structure to be repaired, a rebuttable presumption that the building or structure requires immediate demolition exists.

(5) The cost of demolition includes, but is not limited to, fees paid to hearing officers, costs of title searches or commitments used to determine the parties in interest, recording fees for notices and liens filed with the county register of deeds, demolition and dumping charges, court reporter attendance fees, and costs of the collection of the charges authorized under this act. The cost of the demolition, of making the building safe, or of maintaining the exterior of the building or structure or grounds adjoining the building or structure incurred by the city, village, or township to bring the property into conformance with this act shall be reimbursed to the city, village, or township by the owner or party in interest in whose name the property appears.

(6) The owner or party in interest in whose name the property appears upon the last local tax assessment records shall be notified by the assessor of the amount of the cost of the demolition, of making the building safe, or of maintaining the exterior of the building or structure or grounds adjoining the building or structure by first class mail at the address shown on the records. If the owner or party in interest fails to pay the cost within 30 days after mailing by the assessor of the notice of the amount of the cost, the city, village, or township shall have a lien for the cost incurred by the city, village, or township to bring the property into conformance with this act. The lien shall not take effect until notice of the lien has been filed or recorded as provided by law. A lien provided for in this subsection does not have priority over previously filed or recorded liens and encumbrances. The lien for the cost shall be collected and treated in the same manner as provided for property tax liens under the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.1 to 211.157.

(7) In addition to other remedies under this act, the city, village, or township may bring an action against the owner of the building or structure for the full cost of the demolition, of making the building safe, or of maintaining the exterior of the building or structure or grounds adjoining the building or structure. A city, village, or township shall have a lien on the property for the amount of a judgment obtained under this subsection. The lien provided for in this subsection shall not take effect until notice of the lien is filed or recorded as provided by law. The lien does not have priority over prior filed or recorded liens and encumbrances.

History: Add. 1969, Act 61, Eff. Sept. 1, 1969;—Am. 1992, Act 113, Eff. Mar. 31, 1993;—Am. 1992, Act 144, Eff. Mar. 31, 1993;—Am. 2003, Act 55, Imd. Eff. July 14, 2003.

125.541a Enforcement of judgment against other assets; lien; effectiveness; priority.

Sec. 141a. (1) A judgment in an action brought pursuant to section 141(7) may be enforced against assets of the owner other than the building or structure.

(2) A city, village, or township shall have a lien for the amount of a judgment obtained pursuant to section 141(7) against the owner's interest in all real property located in this state that is owned in whole or in part by the owner of the building or structure against whom the judgment is obtained. A lien provided for in this section does not take effect until notice of the lien is filed or recorded as provided by law, and the lien does not have priority over prior filed or recorded liens and encumbrances.

History: Add. 1992, Act 109, Eff. Mar. 31, 1993.

125.541b Noncompliance with order as misdemeanor; penalties; designation of blight violation by municipality.

Sec. 141b. (1) Except as otherwise provided under subsection (2), a person who fails or refuses to comply with an order approved or modified by the legislative body or board of appeals under section 141 within the time prescribed by that section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 120 days or a fine of not more than $1,000.00, or both.

(2) If a legislative body of a municipality formed under the home rule city act, 1909 PA 279, MCL 117.1 to 117.38, has enacted an ordinance that is substantially the same as sections 138 to 142, the municipality may designate the violation of its ordinance as a blight violation in accordance with section 4q of the home rule city act, 1909 PA 279, MCL 117.4q.

History: Add. 1992, Act 144, Eff. Mar. 31, 1993;—Am. 2008, Act 50, Imd. Eff. Mar. 28, 2008.

125.541c Board of appeals; establishment; appointment and terms of members; vacancy; election of officers; quorum; compensation; expenses; meetings; writings.

Sec. 141c. (1) The legislative body of a city, village, or township may establish a board of appeals to hear all of the cases and carry out all of the duties of the legislative body described in section 141(3) and (4).

(2) A board of appeals shall consist of the following members, appointed by the legislative body of the city, village, or township:

(a) A building contractor.

(b) An architect or professional engineer who is licensed under article 20 of the occupational code, 1980 PA 299, MCL 339.2001 to 339.2014.

(c) Two members of the general public.

(d) An individual registered as a building official, plan reviewer, or inspector under article 10 of the skilled trades regulation act, MCL 339.6001 to 339.6023. The individual may be an employee of the enforcing agency.

(3) Board of appeals members shall be appointed for 3 years, except that of the members first appointed, 2 members shall serve for 1 year, 2 members shall serve for 2 years, and 1 member shall serve for 3 years. A vacancy created other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. A member may be reappointed for additional terms.

(4) A board of appeals annually shall elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and other officers that the board considers necessary.

(5) A majority of the members of the board of appeals members who are appointed and serving constitute a quorum. Final action of a board of appeals shall be only by affirmative vote of a majority of the board members who are appointed and serving.

(6) The legislative body of the city, village, or township shall establish the amount of any per diem compensation provided to the members of its board of appeals. The expenses of a member of the board of appeals incurred in the performance of his or her official duties may be reimbursed as provided by law for employees of the legislative body of the city, village, or township.

(7) A meeting of a board of appeals shall comply with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275. Public notice of the time, date, and place of a meeting of a board of appeals shall be given in the manner required under that act.

(8) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by a board of appeals in the performance of an official function is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

History: Add. 1992, Act 144, Eff. Mar. 31, 1993;—Am. 2016, Act 408, Eff. Apr. 4, 2017.

125.542 Appeal to circuit court.

Sec. 142. An owner aggrieved by a final decision or order of the legislative body or the board of appeals under section 141 may appeal the decision or order to the circuit court by filing a petition for an order of superintending control within 20 days from the date of the decision.

History: Add. 1969, Act 61, Eff. Sept. 1, 1969;—Am. 1992, Act 144, Eff. Mar. 31, 1993;—Am. 2003, Act 55, Imd. Eff. July 14, 2003.

125.543 Adoption of housing law not required.

Sec. 143. Nothing herein contained shall require any city, village or township to adopt Act No. 167 of the Public Acts of 1917, as amended, being the housing law of Michigan.

History: Add. 1969, Act 61, Eff. Sept. 1, 1969.