

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 712 Session of
2009

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D. COSTA, DEASY AND WAGNER, MARCH 4, 2009

SENATOR YAW, URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED,
OCTOBER 12, 2010

AN ACT

1 Providing for the creation of land banks for the conversion of
2 vacant or tax-delinquent properties into productive use.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Land Bank
7 Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative findings and purpose.

9 The General Assembly finds and declares that:

10 (1) Pennsylvania's communities are important to the
11 social and economic vitality of this Commonwealth. Whether
12 urban, suburban or rural, many communities are struggling to
13 cope with vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties.

14 (2) Citizens of this Commonwealth are affected adversely
15 by vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties, including

properties that have been vacated or abandoned due to mortgage foreclosure.

(3) Vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties impose significant costs on neighborhoods, communities and municipalities by lowering property values, increasing fire and police protection costs, decreasing tax revenues and undermining community cohesion.

(4) There is an overriding public need to confront the problems caused by vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties through the creation of new tools for municipalities in order to enable municipalities to turn vacant spaces into vibrant places.

(5) Land banks are one of the tools that can be utilized by communities and municipalities to facilitate the return of vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties to productive use.

Section 3. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Board of directors" or "board." The board of directors of a land bank.

"Land bank." A public body and a body corporate and politic established in accordance with the provisions of this act.

"Land bank jurisdiction." A city or county as defined by the act May 24, 1945 (P.L.991, No.385), known as the Urban Redevelopment Law, possessing the authority to create a redevelopment authority pursuant to section 4(c) and (d) of the Urban Redevelopment Law.

"OWNER-OCCUPIED." REAL PROPERTY WITH ONE OR TWO RESIDENTIAL



1 UNITS, AT LEAST ONE OF WHICH HAS BEEN CONTINUOUSLY OCCUPIED FOR
2 A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS BY THE PERSON OR PERSONS IN WHOM TITLE
3 OR OWNERSHIP IS VESTED. TITLE OR OWNERSHIP MAY BE LEGAL OR
4 EQUITABLE INTEREST EVIDENCED BY DEED OF RECORD, UNRECORDED DEED,
5 BY WILL OR TESTAMENTARY INHERITANCE, BY ACTION OF LAW, BY
6 INTESTATE INHERITANCE OR BY ANY OTHER MEANS RECOGNIZED BY THE
7 LAWS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH.

8 "Real property." Lands, structures and any and all
9 easements, air rights, franchises and incorporeal hereditaments
10 and every estate and right therein, legal and equitable,
11 including terms for years and liens by way of judgment, mortgage
12 or otherwise and any and all fixtures and improvements located
13 thereon.

14 "School district." Any of the classifications of school
15 districts specified in section 202 of the act of March 10, 1949
16 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949. The
17 term includes, as to any real property acquired, owned or
18 conveyed by a land bank, the school district within whose
19 geographical jurisdiction the real property is located.

20 Section 4. Creation and existence.

21 (a) General rule.--Any land bank jurisdiction may elect to
22 create a land bank by the adoption of an ordinance, subject to
23 the approval of the mayor in a city or the county executive in a
24 home rule county ~~and in accordance with law or a home rule~~
25 ~~charter~~, to create a binding legal obligation, which action must
26 specify the following:

27 (1) The name of the land bank.

28 (2) The number of members of the board of directors,
29 which shall consist of an odd number of members and be not
30 less than five members nor more than eleven members.

1 (3) The initial individuals to serve as members of the
2 board and the length of terms for which they will serve.

3 (4) The qualifications, manner of selection or
4 appointment and terms of office of members of the board.

5 (5) The governing body of the land bank jurisdiction
6 which creates a land bank shall cause a certified copy of the
7 ordinance to be filed with the Department of State and a
8 duplicate with the Department of Community and Economic
9 Development. After receipt of the ordinance, the Secretary of
10 the Commonwealth shall issue a certificate of incorporation.

11 (b) Entities that may establish.--A land bank may be created
12 by any of the following:

13 (1) A land bank jurisdiction.

14 (2) Two or more land bank jurisdictions pursuant to
15 intergovernmental cooperation agreements.

16 (3) A land bank jurisdiction and one or more
17 municipalities pursuant to intergovernmental cooperation
18 agreements.

19 (c) Intergovernmental cooperation agreement.--In the event
20 that a land bank is established under an intergovernmental
21 agreement in accordance with subsection (b), the
22 intergovernmental cooperation agreement shall specify matters
23 identified in subsection (a).

24 (d) Limitation.--Except when a land bank is established
25 under subsection (b)(2) or (3), in the event a county
26 establishes a land bank, the land bank shall have the power to
27 acquire real property only in those portions of the county
28 located outside of the geographical boundaries of any other land
29 bank established by any other land bank jurisdiction located
30 partially or entirely within the county.

1 (e) Participation by school district.--A school district may
2 participate in a land bank pursuant to an intergovernmental
3 cooperation agreement, which agreement shall specify the
4 membership, if any, of the school district on the board of the
5 land bank or the actions of the land bank which are subject to
6 approval by the school district.

7 (f) Legal status of land bank.--A land bank shall be a
8 public body corporate and politic, and shall have permanent and
9 perpetual duration until terminated and dissolved in accordance
10 with the provisions of section 14.

11 (g) Collaboration.--A land bank, a political subdivision and
12 other municipal entities may enter into intergovernmental
13 cooperation agreements relative to the operations of a land
14 bank.

15 Section 5. Board of directors.

16 (a) Membership.--The initial size of a board shall be
17 determined in accordance with section 4. Unless restricted by
18 the actions or agreements specified in section 4, and subject to
19 the limits stated in this section, the size of the board may be
20 adjusted in accordance with bylaws of the land bank.

21 (b) Eligibility to serve on board.--

22 (1) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a public
23 officer shall be eligible to serve as a board member and the
24 acceptance of the appointment shall neither terminate nor
25 impair that public office. Any municipal employee shall be
26 eligible to serve as a board member.

27 (2) Each established land bank board shall include at
28 least one voting member who:

29 (i) is a resident of the land bank jurisdiction;

30 (ii) is not a public official or municipal employee;

1 and

2 (iii) maintains membership with a recognized civic
3 organization within the land bank jurisdiction.

4 (3) For purposes of this subsection, "public officer"
5 means a person who is elected to a municipal office.

6 (c) Officers.--The members of the board shall select
7 annually from among themselves a chairman, vice chairman,
8 secretary, treasurer and such other officers as the board may
9 determine and shall establish their duties as may be regulated
10 by rules adopted by the board.

11 (d) Rules and regulations.--

12 (1) The board shall establish rules and regulations
13 relative to the attendance and participation of members in
14 its regular and special meetings. The rules and regulations
15 may prescribe a procedure where, should any member fail to
16 comply with the rules and regulations, the member may be
17 disqualified and removed automatically from office by no less
18 than a majority vote of the remaining members of the board
19 and that member's position shall be vacant as of the first
20 day of the next calendar month.

21 (2) Any person removed under the provisions of this
22 subsection shall be ineligible for reappointment to the
23 board, unless the reappointment is confirmed unanimously by
24 the board.

25 (e) Vacancies.--A vacancy on the board shall be filled in
26 the same manner as the original appointment.

27 (f) Compensation.--Board members shall serve without
28 compensation. The board may reimburse a member for expenses
29 actually incurred in the performance of duties on behalf of the
30 land bank.

1 (g) Meetings.--The board shall meet in regular session
2 according to a schedule adopted by the board and also shall meet
3 in special session as convened by the chairman or upon written
4 notice signed by a majority of the members. The presence of a
5 majority of the entire board membership shall constitute a
6 quorum.

7 (h) Voting.--All actions of the board must be approved by
8 the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the board
9 present and voting. However, no action of the board shall be
10 authorized on the following matters unless approved by a
11 majority of the entire board membership:

12 (1) Adoption of bylaws and other rules and regulations
13 for conduct of the land bank's business. A majority of the
14 members of the board, not including vacancies, shall
15 constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

16 (2) Hiring or firing of any employee or contractor of
17 the land bank. This function may by majority vote be
18 delegated by the board to a specified officer or committee of
19 the land bank, under such terms, conditions and to the extent
20 that the board may specify.

21 (3) Incurring of debt.

22 (4) Adoption or amendment of the annual budget.

23 (5) Sale, lease, encumbrance or alienation of real
24 property, improvements or personal property with a value of
25 more than \$50,000.

26 (i) Immunity.--A member of a board shall not be liable
27 personally on the bonds or other obligations of the land bank
28 and the rights of creditors of a land bank shall be solely
29 against the land bank.

30 (j) Proxy voting prohibited.--

1 (1) A member of the board shall be prohibited from
2 voting by proxy.

3 (2) A member may request a recorded vote on any
4 resolution or action of the land bank.

5 Section 6. Staff.

6 A land bank may employ an executive director, its own counsel
7 and legal staff and such technical experts, other agents and
8 employees, permanent or temporary, as it may require, and may
9 determine the qualifications and fix the compensation and
10 benefits of those persons. A land bank may also enter into
11 contracts and agreements with municipalities for staffing
12 services to be provided to the land bank by municipalities or
13 agencies or departments thereof, or for a land bank to provide
14 such staffing services to municipalities or agencies or
15 departments thereof.

16 Section 7. Powers.

17 A land bank shall constitute a public body, corporate and
18 politic, exercising public powers of the Commonwealth, which
19 powers shall include all powers necessary or appropriate to
20 carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this
21 act, including the following powers:

22 (1) To adopt, amend and repeal bylaws for the regulation
23 of its affairs and the conduct of its business.

24 (2) To sue and be sued in its own name and plead and be
25 impleaded in all civil actions, including, but not limited
26 to, actions to clear title to property of the land bank.

27 (3) To adopt a seal and to alter the same at pleasure.

28 (4) To borrow from private lenders, from municipalities,
29 from the Commonwealth or from Federal Government funds, as
30 may be necessary, for the operation and work of the land

1 bank.

2 (5) To issue negotiable revenue bonds and notes
3 according to the provisions of this act.

4 (6) To procure insurance or guarantees from the
5 Commonwealth or Federal Government of the payments of any
6 debts or parts thereof incurred by the land bank, and to pay
7 premiums in connection therewith.

8 (7) To enter into contracts and other instruments
9 necessary, incidental or convenient to the performance of its
10 duties and the exercise of its powers, including, but not
11 limited to, intergovernmental cooperation agreements under 53
12 Pa.C.S. Ch. 23, Subch. A (relating to intergovernmental
13 cooperation), for the joint exercise of powers under this
14 act.

15 (8) To enter into contracts and intergovernmental
16 cooperation agreements with municipalities for the
17 performance of functions by municipalities on behalf of the
18 land bank or by the land bank on behalf of municipalities.

19 (9) To make and execute contracts and other instruments
20 necessary or convenient to the exercise of the powers of the
21 land bank. Any contract or instrument when signed by the
22 chairman or vice chairman of the land bank or by an
23 authorized use of their facsimile signatures, and by the
24 secretary or assistant secretary, or treasurer or assistant
25 treasurer of the land bank, or by an authorized use of their
26 facsimile signatures, shall be held to have been properly
27 executed for and on behalf of the land bank.

28 (10) To procure insurance against losses in connection
29 with the real property, assets or activities of the land
30 bank.

1 (11) To invest money of the land bank, at the discretion
2 of the board, in instruments, obligations, securities or
3 property determined proper by the board and name and use
4 depositories for its money.

5 (12) To enter into contracts for the management of, the
6 collection of rent from or the sale of real property of the
7 land bank.

8 (13) To design, develop, construct, demolish,
9 reconstruct, rehabilitate, renovate, relocate and otherwise
10 improve real property or rights or interests in real
11 property.

12 (14) To fix, charge and collect rents, fees and charges
13 for the use of real property of the land bank and for
14 services provided by the land bank.

15 (15) To grant or acquire a license, easement, lease, as
16 lessor or lessee, or option with respect to real property of
17 the land bank.

18 (16) To enter into partnerships, joint ventures and
19 other collaborative relationships with municipalities and
20 other public and private entities for the ownership,
21 management, development and disposition of real property.

22 (17) To organize and reorganize the executive,
23 administrative, clerical and other departments of the land
24 bank and to fix the duties, powers and compensation of all
25 employees, agents and consultants of the land bank.

26 (18) To do all other things necessary or convenient to
27 achieve the objectives and purposes of the land bank or other
28 laws that relate to the purposes and responsibility of the
29 land bank.

30 Section 8. Eminent domain.

1 A land bank shall neither possess nor exercise the power of
2 eminent domain.

3 Section 9. Acquisition of property.

4 (a) Tax exemption.--The real property of a land bank and its
5 income and operations are exempt from all taxation by the
6 Commonwealth and by any of its political subdivisions, provided,
7 however, that the exemption shall not apply to any real property
8 of a land bank after the fifth consecutive year in which the
9 real property is continuously leased to a private third party.

10 (b) Methods of acquisition.--A land bank may acquire real
11 property or interests in real property by gift, devise,
12 transfer, exchange, foreclosure, purchase or otherwise on terms
13 and conditions and in a manner the land bank considers proper.

14 (c) Acquisitions from municipalities.--

15 (1) A land bank may acquire real property by purchase
16 contracts, lease purchase agreements, installment sales
17 contracts, land contracts and may accept transfers from
18 municipalities upon such terms and conditions as agreed to by
19 the land bank and the municipality.

20 (2) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a
21 municipality may transfer to a land bank real property and
22 interests in real property of the municipality on such terms
23 and conditions and according to such procedures as determined
24 by the municipality, so long as the real property is located
25 within the jurisdiction of the land bank.

26 (d) Maintenance.--A land bank shall maintain all of its real
27 property in accordance with the laws and ordinances of the
28 jurisdiction in which the real property is located.

29 (e) Prohibition.--

30 (1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2), a land

1 bank shall not own or hold real property located outside the
2 jurisdictional boundaries of the entities which created the
3 land bank pursuant to section 4(b).

4 (2) A land bank may be granted authority pursuant to an
5 intergovernmental cooperation agreement with a municipality
6 to manage and maintain real property located within the
7 jurisdiction of the municipality.

8 (f) Tax claim bureaus.--Any tax claim bureau may transfer to
9 a land bank any real property of the county held by the tax
10 claim bureau, as trustee for the county, in a repository for
11 unsold property pursuant to section 626 of the act of July 7,
12 1947 (P.L.1368, No.542), known as the Real Estate Tax Sale Law.

13 (g) Acquisition of tax delinquent properties.--

14 (1) If authorized by the land bank jurisdiction or land
15 bank jurisdictions that created a land bank, or otherwise by
16 intergovernmental cooperation agreement, a land bank may
17 accept donations of real property in accordance with section
18 5.1 of the act of May 16, 1923 (P.L.207, No.153), referred to
19 as the Municipal Claim and Tax Lien Law, or section 303 of
20 the Real Estate Tax Sale Law and extinguish delinquent claims
21 for taxes as to such property.

22 (2) Claims of a school district shall be extinguished
23 only if the school district has designated the land bank as
24 its agent in accordance with section 5.1(f) of the Municipal
25 Claim and Tax Lien Law or section 303(b)(6) of the Real
26 Estate Tax Sale Law.

27 Section 10. Disposition of property.

28 (a) Title to be held in its name.--A land bank shall hold in
29 its own name all real property acquired by the land bank
30 irrespective of the identity of the transferor of the property.

1 (b) Public access to inventory.--A land bank shall maintain
2 and make available for public review and inspection an inventory
3 of all real property held by the land bank.

4 (c) Power.--A land bank may convey, exchange, sell,
5 transfer, lease as lessor, grant, mortgage, as mortgagor, any
6 and all interests in, upon or to real property of the land bank
7 in some form and by such method as determined to be in the best
8 interests of the land bank.

9 (d) Consideration.--

10 (1) A land bank shall determine the amount and form of
11 consideration necessary to convey, exchange, sell, transfer,
12 lease as lessor, grant and mortgage, as mortgagor, any
13 interests in, upon or to real property.

14 (2) Consideration may take the form of monetary payments
15 and secured financial obligations, covenants and conditions
16 related to the present and future use of the property,
17 contractual commitments of the transferee and such other
18 forms of consideration as determined by the board to be in
19 the best interest of the land bank.

20 (e) Policies and procedures.--

21 (1) A board shall determine and state in the land bank
22 policies and procedures the general terms and conditions for
23 consideration to be received by the land bank for the
24 transfer of real property and interests in real property.

25 (2) Requirements that may be applicable to the
26 disposition of real property and interests in real property
27 by municipalities shall not be applicable to the disposition
28 of real property and interests in real property by a land
29 bank.

30 (f) Ranking of priorities.--A land bank jurisdiction may, in

1 its ordinance creating a land bank, or, in the case of multiple
2 land bank jurisdictions creating a single land bank in the
3 applicable intergovernmental cooperation agreement, establish a
4 hierarchical ranking of priorities for the use of real property
5 conveyed by a land bank, including, but not limited to:

6 (1) Use for purely public spaces and places.

7 (2) Use for affordable housing.

8 (3) Use for retail, commercial and industrial
9 activities.

10 (4) Use as conservation areas.

11 (g) Specific voting and approval requirements.--

12 (1) A land bank jurisdiction may, in its ordinance
13 creating a land bank, or, in the case of multiple land bank
14 jurisdictions and municipalities creating a single land bank
15 in the applicable intergovernmental cooperation agreement,
16 require that any particular form of disposition of real
17 property, or any disposition of real property located within
18 specified jurisdictions, be subject to specified voting and
19 approval requirements of the board.

20 (2) Except and unless restricted or constrained as
21 provided in paragraph (1), the board may delegate to officers
22 and employees the authority to enter into and execute
23 agreements, instruments of conveyance and all other related
24 documents pertaining to the conveyance of real property by
25 the land bank.

26 Section 11. Financing of land bank operations.

27 (a) General rule.--A land bank may receive funding through
28 grants and loans from the land bank jurisdiction or land bank
29 jurisdictions which created the land bank, from municipalities,
30 from the Commonwealth, from the Federal Government and from

1 other public and private sources.

2 (b) Funding.--A land bank may receive and retain payments
3 for services rendered, for rents and leasehold payments
4 received, for consideration for disposition of real and personal
5 property, for proceeds of insurance coverage for losses
6 incurred, for income from investments and for any other asset
7 and activity lawfully permitted to a land bank under this act.

8 (c) Allocated real property taxes.--

9 (1) A taxing jurisdiction may authorize the remittance
10 or dedication of a portion of real property taxes collected
11 pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth to a land bank on
12 real property conveyed by a land bank.

13 (2) Allocation of property tax revenues in accordance
14 with this subsection, if authorized by the taxing
15 jurisdiction, must commence with the first taxable year
16 following the date of conveyance and continue for a period of
17 up to five years and may not exceed a maximum of 50% of the
18 aggregate property tax revenues generated by the property.

19 (3) Remittance or dedication of real property taxes
20 shall include the real property taxes of a school district
21 only if the school district enters into an agreement with the
22 land bank for the remittance or dedication.

23 Section 12. Borrowing and issuance of bonds.

24 (a) General rule.--A land bank may issue bonds for any of
25 its corporate purposes, the principal and interest of which are
26 payable from its revenues generally. Any of the bonds may be
27 secured by a pledge of any revenues, including grants or
28 contributions from the Commonwealth, the Federal Government or
29 any agency or instrumentality thereof, or by a mortgage of any
30 property of the land bank.

1 (b) Nature of bonds.--The bonds issued by a land bank shall
2 have all the qualities of negotiable instruments under the law
3 of negotiable instruments of the Commonwealth.

4 (c) Tax exempt.--The bonds of a land bank created under the
5 provisions of this act and the income therefrom shall at all
6 times be free from taxation for Commonwealth or local purposes
7 under any law of the Commonwealth.

8 (d) Procedure.--

9 (1) Bonds issued by a land bank must be authorized by
10 resolution of the board and shall be limited obligations of
11 the land bank. The principal and interest, costs of issuance
12 and other costs incidental thereto shall be payable solely
13 from the income and revenue derived from the sale, lease or
14 other disposition of the assets of the land bank.

15 (2) In the discretion of the land bank, the bonds may be
16 additionally secured by mortgage or other security device
17 covering all or part of the project from which the revenues
18 so pledged may be derived.

19 (3) Any refunding bonds issued shall be payable from any
20 source described in this act or from the investment of any of
21 the proceeds of the refunding bonds and shall not constitute
22 an indebtedness or pledge of the general credit of any
23 political subdivision within the meaning of any
24 constitutional or statutory limitation of indebtedness and
25 shall contain a recital to that effect.

26 (4) Bonds of the land bank shall be issued in such form,
27 shall be in such denominations, shall bear interest, shall
28 mature in such manner, and shall be executed by one or more
29 members of the board as provided in the resolution
30 authorizing the issuance thereof.

(5) Bonds of the land bank may be subject to redemption at the option of and in the manner determined by the board in the resolution authorizing the issuance thereof.

(e) Powers of municipalities.--A municipality may elect to guarantee, insure or otherwise become primarily or secondarily obligated on the indebtedness of a land bank subject, however, to all other provisions of law of the Commonwealth applicable to municipal indebtedness.

(f) Sale.--

(1) Bonds issued by a land bank shall be issued, sold, and delivered in accordance with the terms and provisions of a resolution adopted by the board. The board may sell such bonds in such manner, either at public or at private sale, and for such price as it may determine to be in the best interests of the land bank.

(2) The resolution issuing bonds shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the jurisdiction in which the land bank is located.

(g) Liability.--

(1) Neither the members of a land bank nor any person executing the bonds of a land bank shall be liable personally on the bonds by reason of the issuance thereof.

(2) The bonds or other obligations of a land bank shall not be a debt of any political subdivision or of the Commonwealth, and shall so state on their face, nor shall any municipality or the Commonwealth nor any revenues or any property of any municipality or the Commonwealth be liable for the bonds or other obligations.

Section 13. Public records and public meetings.

A board shall cause minutes and a record to be kept of all

1 its proceedings. Except as otherwise provided in this act, the
2 land bank shall be subject to 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open
3 meetings) and the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known
4 as the Right-to-Know Law.

5 Section 14. Dissolution of land bank.

6 (a) General rule.--A land bank ~~may be dissolved as a public~~ ←
7 ~~body corporate and politic 60 calendar days after~~ THAT HAS: ←

8 (1) FINALLY PAID AND DISCHARGED OR DEFEASED ALL BONDS
9 ISSUED AND OUTSTANDING WHICH HAVE BEEN SECURED BY A PLEDGE OF
10 ANY OF ITS REVENUES OR PROPERTY AND THE INTEREST DUE ON THEM;
11 AND

12 (2) SETTLED ALL OTHER OUTSTANDING CLAIMS AGAINST IT MAY
13 SEEK TO TERMINATE ITS EXISTENCE BY an affirmative resolution
14 approved by two-thirds of the membership of the board.

15 ~~(b) Notice. Sixty calendar days' advance written notice of~~ ←
16 ~~consideration of a resolution of dissolution shall be given to~~
17 ~~the land bank jurisdiction or land bank jurisdictions that~~
18 ~~created the land bank, shall be published in a local newspaper~~
19 ~~of general circulation and shall be sent certified mail to the~~
20 ~~trustee of any outstanding bonds of the land bank.~~

21 ~~(c) Transfer of assets. Upon dissolution of the land bank,~~
22 ~~all real property, personal property and other assets of the~~
23 ~~land bank shall become the assets of the municipality in which~~
24 ~~the property is located.~~

25 (B) CERTIFICATE.-- ←

26 (1) A LAND BANK SEEKING TO TERMINATE ITS EXISTENCE SHALL
27 SUBMIT A CERTIFICATE TO EACH LAND BANK JURISDICTION WHICH
28 CREATED IT.

29 (2) IF THE CERTIFICATE IS APPROVED BY EACH LAND BANK
30 JURISDICTION BY ORDINANCE, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE

1 MAYOR IN A CITY OR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE IN A HOME RULE
2 COUNTY, THE CERTIFICATE SHALL BE FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
3 SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH, AND THE SECRETARY SHALL NOTE
4 THE TERMINATION OF EXISTENCE ON THE RECORD OF INCORPORATION
5 AND RETURN THE CERTIFICATE WITH APPROVAL TO THE BOARD. THE
6 SECRETARY SHALL ALSO NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND
7 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERMINATION OF EXISTENCE OF THE
8 LAND BANK.

9 (3) THE BOARD SHALL CAUSE THE CERTIFICATE TO BE RECORDED
10 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH
11 THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED.

12 (4) UPON RECORDING, THE PROPERTY OF THE LAND BANK SHALL
13 PASS TO THE MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED AND
14 THE LAND BANK SHALL CEASE TO EXIST.

15 ~~(d)~~ (C) Multiple jurisdictions.--In the event that two or
16 more land bank jurisdictions create a land bank in accordance
17 with section 4(b)(2) or (3), the withdrawal of one or more land
18 bank jurisdictions shall not result in the dissolution of the
19 land bank unless the intergovernmental cooperation agreement so
20 provides and there is no land bank jurisdiction that desires to
21 continue the existence of the land bank.

22 Section 15. Conflicts of interest.

23 (a) General rule.--The acts and decisions of members of a
24 board and of employees of a land bank shall be subject to the
25 act of July 19, 1957 (P.L.1017, No.451), known as the State
26 Adverse Interest Act,.

27 (b) Supplemental rules and regulations.--The board may adopt
28 supplemental rules and regulations addressing potential
29 conflicts of interest and ethical guidelines for members of the
30 board and land bank employees. Board members and land bank

employees are subject to the ethical standards specified in 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 11 (relating to ethics standards and financial disclosure).

Section 16. Construction, intent and scope of act.

This act shall be construed liberally to effectuate the legislative intent and the purposes as complete and independent authorization for the performance of each and every act and thing authorized by this act, and all powers granted shall be broadly interpreted to effectuate the intent and purposes and not as a limitation of powers.

Section 17. Delinquent property tax enforcement.

(a) Power to discharge liens and claims.--

(1) Whenever any real property is acquired by a land bank and is encumbered by a lien or claim for real property taxes owed to the entities that created the land bank pursuant to section 4(b) or to municipalities having an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the land bank, the land bank may, by resolution of the board, discharge and extinguish any and all such liens or claims.

(2) Whenever any real property is acquired by a land bank and is encumbered by a lien or claim for real property taxes owed to a school district, the land bank may, by resolution of the board, discharge and extinguish any and all such liens or claims if and only if the governing body of the school district has approved each discharge and extinguishment.

(3) The land bank shall file evidence of the extinguishment and dissolution of liens or claims with the county tax claim bureau, including copies of the resolution by the board, the intergovernmental agreement, receipt of

1 payment ~~or~~ AND other necessary and appropriate documentation. ←

2 This requirement shall be satisfied no later than ten days
3 prior to the conveyance of the property or within 30 days
4 after the extinguishment and dissolution of liens or claims,
5 whichever comes first.

6 (b) Remittance of payments.--To the extent that a land bank
7 receives payments of any kind attributable to liens or claims
8 for real property taxes owed to a municipality or school
9 district on property acquired by the land bank, the land bank
10 shall remit the full amount of the payments to the municipality
11 or school district, as applicable.

12 (c) Procedure relating to Real Estate Tax Sale Law.--In a
13 municipality which follows the provisions of the act of July 7,
14 1947 (P.L.1368, No.542), known as the Real Estate Tax Sale Law,
15 and a land bank exists in the municipality, the following
16 provisions shall apply:

17 (1) (i) For any tax claim filed under the Real Estate
18 Tax Sale Law, the municipality may direct the county tax
19 claim bureau to assign the claim or lien to a land bank
20 under such terms as are mutually acceptable to the
21 municipality and land bank and shall otherwise confer
22 upon the land bank the rights, privileges and remedies of
23 an assignee as set forth in section 316 of the Real
24 Estate Tax Sale Law.

25 (ii) For any tax claim to be filed under the Real
26 Estate Tax Sale Law, a municipality having complied with
27 section 26 of the act of May 25, 1945 (P.L.1050, No.394),
28 known as the Local Tax Collection Law, and section 306 of
29 the Real Estate Tax Sale Law may assign and transfer to a
30 land bank any tax claim to be filed under the Real Estate

1 Tax Sale Law upon such terms and conditions as are
2 mutually acceptable to the municipality and shall
3 otherwise confer upon the land bank the rights,
4 privileges and remedies of an assignee as set forth in
5 section 316 of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law.

6 (2) (i) The upset sale price contemplated by section
7 605 of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law may be set in advance
8 in an amount equal to or greater than the minimum amount
9 described in section 605 of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law
10 as may be mutually agreed in writing by the municipality
11 and the land bank.

12 (ii) In the event there is such an agreement on the
13 upset sale price and no one bids a higher price than the
14 specified upset sale price, then the property shall be
15 sold to the land bank upon payment by the land bank for
16 the upset sale costs, and all liens, claims and
17 subordinate encumbrances shall be discharged by the sale.

18 (3) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 612
19 of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, when a judicial sale is
20 ordered pursuant to a judgment on a tax claim, the
21 purchaser of the property is a land bank and the sales
22 price is an amount agreed to by the land bank and the
23 plaintiff in the claim, then the form, substance and
24 timing of the land bank's payment of the sales price may
25 be according to the agreement as is mutually acceptable
26 to the plaintiff and the land bank.

27 (ii) The obligation of the land bank to perform in
28 accordance with the agreement shall be deemed to be in
29 full satisfaction of the tax claim which was the basis
30 for the judgment.

1 (iii) The land bank, as purchaser at the sale, shall
2 have an absolute title to the property sold, free and
3 discharged of all tax and municipal claims, liens,
4 mortgages, ground rents, charges and estates of any kind.

5 (4) The notice and advertisement contemplated by
6 sections 602 and 607(a) of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law shall
7 contain reference to a potential bid by the land bank.

8 (5) The deed to the land bank contemplated by sections
9 608 and 615 of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law shall be
10 delivered and acknowledged and recorded within 30 days of the
11 date of confirmation.

12 (6) (i) In a petition for a judicial sale, a
13 municipality or a land bank, if it is the holder of
14 municipal tax liens, may combine in a single petition
15 multiple tracts of real property if the petition and
16 accompanying affidavits provide:

17 (A) Identification of each tract of real
18 property.

19 (B) The identities of all parties having an
20 interest in each respective tract of real property.

21 (C) The amount of the tax liens then due and
22 owing, together with all interest, costs and fees
23 associated with them.

24 (D) The nature of the notice of the proposed
25 sale provided to the interested parties.

26 (ii) The court may authorize in a single final
27 judgment that all or part of the real properties
28 identified in the petition be sold free and clear of all
29 tax and municipal claims, mortgages, liens, charges and
30 estates and ground rents.

1 (d) Procedure relating to Municipal Claim and Tax Lien
2 Law.--In a municipality which follows the provisions of the act
3 of May 16, 1923 (P.L.207, No.153), referred to as the Municipal
4 Claim and Tax Lien Law, and a land bank exists in such
5 municipality, the following provisions shall apply:

6 (1) The municipality may assign and transfer to the land
7 bank any tax or municipal claim filed or to be filed under
8 the Municipal Claim and Tax Lien Law upon such terms and
9 conditions as are mutually acceptable to the municipality and
10 land bank, and shall otherwise confer upon the land bank the
11 rights, privileges and remedies of an assignee as stated in
12 section 33 of the Municipal Claim and Tax Lien Law.

13 (2) (i) The upset sale price authorized by section 29
14 of the Municipal Claim and Tax Lien Law may be set in
15 advance in an amount as mutually agreed in writing by a
16 municipality and land bank.

17 (ii) In the event there is an agreement on the upset
18 sale price and no one bids a higher price than the
19 specified upset sale price, then the property shall be
20 sold to the land bank upon payment by the land bank for
21 the upset sale costs, and all liens, claims and
22 subordinate encumbrances shall be discharged by the sale.

23 (3) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 31 of
24 the Municipal Claim and Tax Lien Law, when a judicial
25 sale is ordered pursuant to a judgment on a tax or
26 municipal claim, the purchaser of the property is a land
27 bank and the sales price is an amount agreed to by the
28 land bank and the plaintiff in the claim, then the form,
29 substance and timing of the land bank's payment of the
30 sales price may be according to the agreement as is

1 mutually acceptable to the plaintiff and the land bank.

2 (ii) The obligation of the land bank to perform in
3 accordance with the agreement shall be deemed to be in
4 full satisfaction of the municipal claim which was the
5 basis for the judgment.

6 (iii) The land bank, as purchaser at the sale shall
7 have an absolute title to the property sold, free and
8 discharged of all tax and municipal claims, liens,
9 mortgages, ground rents, charges and estates of any kind.

10 (4) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 31.1
11 and 31.2 of the Municipal Claim and Tax Lien Law and
12 sections 4 and 6 of the act of March 1, 1956 (1955
13 P.L.1196, No.372), entitled "An act authorizing the sale
14 of vacant land located in areas certified as conservation
15 areas in counties of the first class, under a judgment
16 obtained on a tax claim, by the sheriff of the county;
17 providing for the discharge of all liens, mortgages,
18 ground rents, estates and claims against the property by
19 sale; and limiting the right of redemption," the land
20 bank may tender a bid at the sale in an amount equal to
21 the total amount of all municipal claims and liens which
22 were the basis for the judgment. In the event of tender
23 by the land bank, the property shall be deemed sold to
24 the land bank regardless of any ~~of~~ bids by any other
25 third parties. ←

26 (ii) The bid of the Land Bank shall be paid as to
27 its form, substance and timing according to an agreement
28 that is mutually acceptable to the plaintiff and the land
29 bank. The obligation of the land bank to perform in
30 accordance with the agreement shall be deemed to be in

1 full satisfaction of the tax or municipal claim which was
2 the basis for the judgment.

3 (iii) The land bank as purchaser at the sale shall
4 have an absolute title to the property sold, free and
5 discharged of all tax and municipal claims, liens,
6 mortgages, ground rents, charges and estates of any kind.

7 (iv) The deed to the land bank shall be executed,
8 acknowledged and delivered within 30 days of the sale.

9 (5) (i) In a petition for a judicial sale, a
10 municipality, or a land bank if it is the holder of
11 municipal tax liens, may combine in a petition multiple
12 tracts of real property so long as the petition and
13 accompanying affidavits provide:

14 (A) Identification of each tract of real
15 property.

16 (B) The identities of all parties having an
17 interest in each respective tract of real property.

18 (C) The amount of the tax liens then due and
19 owing, together with all interest, costs and fees
20 associated with them.

21 (D) The nature of the notice of the proposed
22 sale provided to such interested parties.

23 (ii) The court may authorize in a single final
24 judgment that all or part of the real properties
25 identified in the petition be sold free and clear of all
26 tax and municipal claims, mortgages, liens, ground rents,
27 charges and estates.

28 (e) Procedure relating to Second Class City Treasurer's Sale
29 and Collection Act.--In any municipality which follows the
30 provisions of the act of October 11, 1984 (P.L.876, No.171),

1 known as the Second Class City Treasurer's Sale and Collection
2 Act, the following provisions shall apply:

3 (1) A municipality may assign and transfer to a land
4 bank any tax or municipal claim filed or to be filed under
5 the Second Class City Treasurer's Sale and Collection Act
6 upon such terms and conditions as are mutually acceptable to
7 the municipality and land bank and shall otherwise confer
8 upon the land bank the rights, privileges and remedies of the
9 municipality under the Second Class City Treasurer's Sale and
10 Collection Act.

11 (2) (i) The upset sale price authorized ~~by~~ UNDER 
12 section 301 of the Second Class City Treasurer's Sale and
13 Collection Act may be set IN an amount as mutually agreed 
14 in writing by the municipality and land bank.

15 (ii) The land bank may tender a bid for the mutually
16 agreed upset sale price.

17 (iii) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 301
18 of the Second Class City Treasurer's Sale and Collection
19 Act, the bid of the land bank shall be paid as to its
20 form, substance and timing according to an agreement that
21 is mutually acceptable to the municipality and land bank.

22 (iv) The obligation of the land bank to perform in
23 accordance with the agreement shall be deemed to be in
24 full satisfaction of the claims and liens which was the
25 basis for the sale.

26 (3) The notice and advertisement contemplated by
27 sections 203 and 204 of the Second Class City Treasurer's
28 Sale and Collection Act shall contain reference to a
29 potential bid by the land bank.

30 (4) Subject to the redemption rights set forth in

1 section 304 of the Second Class City Treasurer's Sale and
2 Collection Act and confirmation by the court of common pleas
3 in accordance with section 305 of the Second Class City
4 Treasurer's Sale and Collection Act, the land bank as
5 purchaser at the sale shall have an absolute title to the
6 property sold, free and discharged of all tax and municipal
7 claims, liens, mortgages, ground rents, charges and estates
8 of any kind.

9 (5) The deed to the land bank contemplated by section
10 303 of the Second Class City Treasurer's Sale and Collection
11 Act shall be delivered, acknowledged and recorded within 30
12 days of the date of confirmation.

13 (6) (i) In a petition for a judicial sale a
14 municipality or a land bank if it is the holder of
15 municipal tax liens, may combine in a single petition
16 multiple tracts of real property so long as the petition
17 and accompanying affidavits provide:

18 (A) Identification of each tract of real
19 property.

20 (B) The identities of all parties having an
21 interest in each respective tract of real property.

22 (C) The amount of the tax liens then due and
23 owing, together with all interest, costs and fees
24 associated with them.

25 (D) The nature of the notice of the proposed
26 sale provided to the interested parties.

27 (ii) The court may authorize in a single final
28 judgment that all or part of the real properties
29 identified in the petition be sold free and clear of all
30 tax and municipal claims, mortgages, liens, charges and

1 estates and ground rents.

2 (f) Involuntary transfers.--A land bank which acquires real
3 property pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be
4 deemed to have acquired such real property as an involuntary
5 transfer within the meaning of section 701(b)(1)(vi)(B) of the
6 act of October 18, 1988 (P.L.756, No.108), known as the
7 Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act.

8 (G) HARDSHIP PROTECTIONS.--



9 (1) A LAND BANK JURISDICTION MAY, IN ITS ORDINANCE
10 CREATING A LAND BANK, OR, IN THE CASE OF MULTIPLE LAND BANK
11 JURISDICTIONS CREATING A SINGLE LAND BANK IN AN APPLICABLE
12 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, PROVIDE FOR THE
13 CREATION OR ADOPTION OF HARDSHIP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
14 PROTECTING OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES.

15 (2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A LAND
16 BANK MAY NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO OVERRIDE A HARDSHIP
17 AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO SECTION 39.4 OF THE ACT OF
18 MAY 16, 1923 (P.L.207, NO.153), REFERRED TO AS THE MUNICIPAL
19 CLAIM AND TAX LIEN LAW, AND SECTIONS 503.1 AND 504 OF THE ACT
20 OF JULY 7, 1947 (P.L.1368, NO.542), KNOWN AS THE REAL ESTATE
21 TAX SALE LAW.

22 (H) OWNER-OCCUPIED EQUITY PROTECTION AND PAYMENT.--WHEN AN
23 OWNER-OCCUPIED PROPERTY IS ACQUIRED BY A LAND BANK PURSUANT TO
24 THE POWERS SET FORTH IN THIS ACT SUCH THAT:

25 (1) THE ACQUIRED OWNER-OCCUPIED PROPERTY WAS NOT EXPOSED
26 TO PUBLIC SALE AT AN UPSET SALE, JUDICIAL SALE OR OTHER FORM
27 OF PUBLIC SALE OR AUCTION; OR

28 (2) THE ACQUIRED OWNER-OCCUPIED PROPERTY WAS EXPOSED TO
29 PUBLIC SALE AT AN UPSET SALE, JUDICIAL SALE OR OTHER FORM OF
30 PUBLIC SALE OR AUCTION, BUT, AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT, THE

1 OWNER-OCCUPIED PROPERTY WAS DEEMED SOLD TO THE LAND BANK
2 REGARDLESS OF ANY BIDS BY ANY OTHER THIRD PARTIES, THEN THE
3 FOLLOWING PROVISIONS SHALL APPLY:

4 (I) WHEN OWNER-OCCUPIED PROPERTY IS ACQUIRED BY THE
5 LAND BANK AND THE FORMER OWNER-OCCUPANT IS EJECTED,
6 OTHERWISE LEGALLY REMOVED OR VOLUNTARILY VACATES THE
7 PROPERTY, THE FORMER OWNER-OCCUPANT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO
8 A PAYMENT FROM THE LAND BANK IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO 50% OF
9 THE REMAINING EQUITY VALUE OF THE PROPERTY. FOR PURPOSES
10 OF THIS SUBSECTION, "REMAINING EQUITY VALUE" OF THE
11 PROPERTY SHALL MEAN THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF THE PROPERTY
12 AFTER DEDUCTING THE AMOUNT OF ALL TAX AND MUNICIPAL
13 CLAIMS DUE ON THE PROPERTY AND ALL REASONABLE EXPENSES
14 ACTUALLY INCURRED BY THE LAND BANK FOR LEGAL FEES AND
15 COSTS, ATTORNEY'S FEES, ACQUISITION COSTS, MAINTENANCE
16 COSTS, MANAGEMENT FEES, DISPOSITION COSTS AND ANY OTHER
17 REASONABLE AMOUNTS ACTUALLY INCURRED BY THE LAND BANK AND
18 ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPERTY. THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF
19 THE PROPERTY SHALL BE DETERMINED BY A WRITTEN APPRAISAL
20 CONDUCTED BY AN INDEPENDENT LICENSED REAL ESTATE
21 APPRAISER AND SHALL BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE FORMER
22 OWNER-OCCUPANT'S EJECTION OR VACATING OF THE PROPERTY.
23 EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BELOW, AN EQUITY PAYMENT OWED TO THE
24 FORMER OWNER-OCCUPANT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE PAID
25 TO THE FORMER OWNER-OCCUPANT WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE
26 PROPERTY HAS BEEN VACATED.

27 (II) WHERE THERE IS MORE THAN ONE FORMER OWNER-
28 OCCUPANTS ELIGIBLE FOR THE EQUITY PAYMENT PROVIDED FOR IN
29 THIS SUBSECTION, THE LAND BANK SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO
30 PAY THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE EQUITY PAYMENT TO EACH

1 INDIVIDUAL OWNER-OCCUPANT. INSTEAD, THE LAND BANK SHALL
2 PAY A FRACTION OF THE EQUITY PAYMENT TO EACH ELIGIBLE
3 OWNER-OCCUPANT, WHICH FRACTION SHALL BE EQUIVALENT TO THE
4 AMOUNT OF EACH ELIGIBLE OWNER-OCCUPANT'S CORRESPONDING
5 LEGAL OR EQUITABLE INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY. IF THE
6 MULTIPLE OWNER-OCCUPANTS ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE OR AGREE
7 HOW THE EQUITY PAYMENT SHOULD BE DISBURSED BETWEEN
8 MULTIPLE ELIGIBLE PERSONS, THE LAND BANK SHALL NOT BE
9 REQUIRED TO DISBURSE AN EQUITY PAYMENT UNTIL THE MULTIPLE
10 OWNER-OCCUPANTS HAVE RESOLVED THE AMBIGUITIES OR DISPUTES
11 REGARDING TITLE OR OWNERSHIP. THE LAND BANK MAY ADOPT
12 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING HOW SUCH DISPUTES MAY
13 BE RESOLVED BY THE OWNER-OCCUPANTS.

14 (III) A LAND BANK'S AUTHORITY AND ITS POWERS AS
15 OTHERWISE PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT, AND THE LAND BANK'S
16 ABILITY TO ACT PURSUANT TO THOSE POWERS, SHALL NOT BE
17 STAYED BASED ON A LAND BANK'S INABILITY TO DISBURSE AN
18 EQUITY PAYMENT AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION DUE TO
19 UNRESOLVED TITLE ISSUES OR OTHER DISPUTES REGARDING THE
20 AMOUNT OWED TO ELIGIBLE FORMER OWNER-OCCUPANTS.

21 Section 18. Expedited quiet title proceedings.

22 (a) General rule.--A land bank may file an action to quiet
23 title as to any real property in which the land bank has an
24 interest. For purposes of any such action, the land bank shall
25 be deemed to be the holder of sufficient legal and equitable
26 interests and possessory rights so as to qualify the land bank
27 an adequate complainant in the action.

28 (b) Examination of title required.--Prior to the filing of
29 an action to quiet title the land bank shall conduct an
30 examination of title to determine the identity of any person and

1 entity possessing a claim or interest in or to the real
2 property. Service of the complaint to quiet title shall be
3 provided to all such interested parties by the following
4 methods:

5 (1) First Class mail to such identity and address as
6 reasonably ascertainable by an inspection of public records.

7 (2) In the case of occupied real property by First Class
8 mail, addressed to "Occupant."

9 (3) By posting a copy of the notice on the real
10 property.

11 (4) By publication.

12 (5) Such other methods as the court may order.

13 (c) Affidavit required.--As part of the complaint to quiet
14 title, the land bank must file an affidavit identifying all
15 parties potentially having an interest in the real property and
16 the form of notice provided.

17 (d) Hearing.--The court shall schedule a hearing on the
18 complaint within 90 days following filing of the complaint and
19 as to all matters upon which an answer was not filed by an
20 interested party, the court shall issue its final judgment
21 within 120 days of the filing of the complaint.

22 (e) Joinder of parcels.--A land bank may join in a single
23 complaint to quiet title one or more parcels of real property.

24 SECTION 19. NOTIFICATIONS TO OCCUPANTS OF RESIDENTIAL
25 PROPERTIES.

26 (A) DETERMINATION OF OCCUPANCY.--PRIOR TO FILING A TAX
27 FORECLOSURE ACTION, TAX LIEN ACTION OR COMMENCEMENT OF ANY OTHER
28 JUDICIAL PROCEEDING RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY, THE LAND BANK
29 SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE REAL PROPERTY IS EITHER:

30 (1) OWNER-OCCUPIED; OR



1 (2) A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED BY A TENANT. UPON
2 THIS DETERMINATION, THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

3 (I) IN THE EVENT THE REAL PROPERTY IS DETERMINED TO
4 BE OWNER-OCCUPIED, THE LAND BANK SHALL NOTIFY EACH OWNER-
5 OCCUPANT AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE FILING OR THE
6 COMMENCEMENT OF LEGAL ACTION. THE NOTICE SHALL INFORM
7 EACH OWNER-OCCUPANT OF THE LAND BANK'S INTENTION TO
8 COMMENCE OR FILE LEGAL ACTION AS WELL AS THE NATURE OF
9 THAT LEGAL ACTION. THE NOTICE SHALL ALSO INFORM EACH
10 OWNER-OCCUPANT OF HIS RIGHTS UNDER THIS ACT AND OF ANY
11 HARDSHIP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED UNDER
12 SECTION 17(G). A SINGLE NOTICE SHALL BE SENT TO EACH
13 RESIDENTIAL UNIT WHICH IS OWNER-OCCUPIED. THE LAND BANK
14 SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SEND INDIVIDUAL NOTICE TO
15 MULTIPLE OCCUPANTS RESIDING IN A SINGLE RESIDENTIAL UNIT.
16 NOTICE ADDRESSED TO THE OWNER-OCCUPANT SHALL BE SENT BY
17 FIRST CLASS UNITED STATES MAIL, AS WELL AS BY REGISTERED
18 OR CERTIFIED UNITED STATES MAIL. NOTICE AS REQUIRED UNDER
19 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE A JURISDICTIONAL PREREQUISITE TO
20 THE COMMENCEMENT OR FILING OF A LEGAL ACTION BY THE LAND
21 BANK IN A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION.

22 (II) IN THE EVENT THE PROPERTY IS DETERMINED TO BE A
23 RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED BY A TENANT, WITHIN 30 DAYS
24 AFTER THE FILING OR COMMENCEMENT OF LEGAL ACTION, THE
25 LAND BANK SHALL NOTIFY THE TENANT OF THE LAND BANK'S
26 COMMENCEMENT OR FILING OF LEGAL ACTION AS WELL AS THE
27 NATURE OF THAT LEGAL ACTION. THE NOTICE SHALL ALSO INFORM
28 THE TENANT OF HIS RIGHTS UNDER THIS ACT AND OF ANY
29 HARDSHIP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED UNDER
30 SECTION 17(G). A SINGLE NOTICE SHALL BE SENT TO EACH

1 RESIDENTIAL UNIT WHICH IS OCCUPIED BY A TENANT. THE LAND
2 BANK SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SEND INDIVIDUAL NOTICE TO
3 MULTIPLE TENANTS RESIDING IN A SINGLE RESIDENTIAL UNIT.
4 NOTICE ADDRESSED TO THE TENANT SHALL BE SENT BY FIRST
5 CLASS UNITED STATES MAIL, AS WELL AS BY REGISTERED OR
6 CERTIFIED UNITED STATES MAIL.

7 (B) DETERMINATION OF TENANT OCCUPATION OF ACQUIRED REAL
8 PROPERTY.--WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER A LAND BANK ACQUIRES LEGAL TITLE
9 TO A PROPERTY, THE LAND BANK SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE REAL
10 PROPERTY IS A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED BY A TENANT. IN THE
11 EVENT THE REAL PROPERTY IS A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED BY A
12 TENANT, THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

13 (1) THE LAND BANK SHALL NOTIFY THE TENANT OF THE LAND
14 BANK'S ACQUISITION OF THE REAL PROPERTY. SUCH NOTICE SHALL BE
15 PROVIDED TO THE TENANT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER A DETERMINATION
16 IS MADE THAT THE PROPERTY IS A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED
17 BY A TENANT. A SINGLE NOTICE SHALL BE SENT TO EACH
18 RESIDENTIAL UNIT WHICH IS OCCUPIED BY A TENANT. THE LAND BANK
19 SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SEND INDIVIDUAL NOTICE TO MULTIPLE
20 TENANTS RESIDING IN A SINGLE RESIDENTIAL UNIT. NOTICE
21 ADDRESSED TO THE TENANT SHALL BE SENT BY FIRST CLASS UNITED
22 STATES MAIL, AS WELL AS BY REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED UNITED
23 STATES MAIL.

24 (2) IN THE EVENT THE LAND BANK TAKES TITLE TO THE
25 PROPERTY, THE LAND BANK SHALL BE BOUND BY ALL EXISTING LEASES
26 AS LONG AS THE LEASE HAS A TERM OF NOT MORE THAN ONE YEAR.
27 UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL A LAND BANK BE BOUND BY A LEASE
28 WITH A TERM OF MORE THAN ONE YEAR. MOREOVER, THE LAND BANK
29 SHALL BE CONSIDERED A LANDLORD UNDER THE TERMS OF THE ACT OF
30 APRIL 6, 1951 (P.L.69, NO.20), KNOWN AS THE LANDLORD AND

1 TENANT ACT OF 1951. WHERE THE LAND BANK IS BOUND BY AN
2 EXISTING LEASE, PRIOR TO TERMINATING THE LEASE AT THE END OF
3 THE LEASE PERIOD, THE LAND BANK SHALL PROVIDE THE TENANT WITH
4 90 DAYS' NOTICE OF TERMINATION.

5 Section ~~19~~ 20. Annual audit and report. 

6 The following shall apply:

7 (1) The land bank shall annually, within 120 days after
8 the end of the fiscal year, submit an audit of all income and
9 expenditures, together with a report of its activities for
10 the preceding year, to the Department of Community and
11 Economic Development.

12 (2) A duplicate of the audit and the report shall be
13 filed with the governing body of the land bank jurisdiction
14 which created the land bank and with the governing body of a
15 municipality or school district that opted to participate in
16 the land bank pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement.

17 Section 30. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect immediately.