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Contact:

[Meghann Malone](#)

## **SDAT Announces Improvements to Ground Rent System**

**BALTIMORE, MD - The Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) today announced a more simplified ground rent redemption system for Maryland homeowners who are subject to ground rent. The new process is designed to reduce the obstacles a homeowner must overcome, as well as the number of documents a homeowner must procure, for them to redeem their ground rent through SDAT.**

**“Thanks to Governor Hogan’s leadership, SDAT has been able to streamline the process to eliminate residential ground rents here in Maryland,” said SDAT Director Michael Higgs. “This new process will greatly benefit Maryland homeowners who wish to once and for all resolve uncertainty about the status of the ground rent attached to their home's deed.”**

**While Baltimore City homeowners will be the most affected by the new ground rent redemption process, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Worcester Counties also have registered ground rents in their jurisdictions.**

**Every homeowner that has ground rent is able to redeem their ground rent through SDAT, regardless of whether the homeowner knows who they should be paying their ground rent to. More information can be found on [SDAT's Ground Rent Website](#).**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) operates the [Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund](#), which can help with past-due mortgage payments and other housing costs, including delinquent ground rent, for homeowners who have experienced financial hardship after January 21, 2020.

For more information, visit [homeownerassistance.maryland.gov](https://homeownerassistance.maryland.gov).

DHCD also offers an [interest-free Ground Rent loan](#) program for homeowners who want to buy out (redeem) ground leases but cannot afford to make a lump sum payment and are not currently delinquent on ground rent payments.