

1 AN ACT relating to marketable title.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 381 IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *As used in Sections 1 to 9 of this Act:*

6 *(1) "Marketable record title" means a title of record as described in Section 2 of this*  
7 *Act that operates to extinguish interest and claims existing before the effective*  
8 *date of the root of title, as provided in Section 4 of this Act;*

9 *(2) "Mineral" means gas; oil; coal; coalbed methane gas; other gaseous, liquid, and*  
10 *solid hydrocarbons; sand; gravel; clay; shale; gypsum; halite; limestone;*  
11 *dolomite; sandstone; other stone; metalliferous or nonmetalliferous ore; or*  
12 *another material or substance of commercial value that is excavated in a solid*  
13 *state from natural depositions on or in the earth;*

14 *(3) "Mineral interest" or "mineral estate" means a fee interest in at least one (1)*  
15 *mineral regardless of how the interest is created and of the form of the interest,*  
16 *which may be absolute, whole, fractional, divided, or undivided;*

17 *(4) "Muniments" means the records of title transactions in the chain of title of a*  
18 *person that:*

19 *(a) Purport to create the interest in land claimed by the person; and*

20 *(b) Upon which the person relies as a basis for the marketability of the person's*  
21 *title;*

22 *commencing with the root of title and including all subsequent transactions;*

23 *(5) "Person dealing with land" means a:*

24 *(a) Purchaser of an estate or interest in an estate;*

25 *(b) Mortgagee;*

26 *(c) Levying or attaching creditor;*

27 *(d) Land contract vendee; or*

1 (e) Person seeking to:

2 1. Acquire an estate or interest in an estate; or

3 2. Impose a lien on an estate;

4 (6) "Recording," when applied to official public records of any court, includes filing;

5 (7) "Records" means all official public records that affect title to land and includes

6 probate records and records in the office of the county clerk of the county in

7 which all or part of the land is located;

8 (8) "Root of title" means that title transaction in the chain of the title of a person:

9 (a) That purports to create the interest claimed by the person;

10 (b) Upon which the person relies as a basis for the marketability of the person's  
11 title;

12 (c) That is the most recent to be recorded as of a date at least forty (40) years  
13 prior to the time when marketability is being determined; and

14 (d) The effective date of the root of title is the date on which it is recorded; and

15 (9) "Title transaction" means any transaction affecting title to any interest in land,  
16 including title by:

17 (a) Will or descent;

18 (b) Tax deed;

19 (c) Trustee's, referee's, guardian's, executor's, administrator's, commissioner's,  
20 or sheriff's deed;

21 (d) Decree of a court; or

22 (e) Warranty deed, quitclaim deed, or mortgage.

23 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 381 IS CREATED TO  
24 READ AS FOLLOWS:

25 Any person having the legal capacity to own land in this state who has an unbroken  
26 chain of title of record to an interest in land for at least forty (40) years has a  
27 marketable record title to that interest, subject to Section 3 of this Act. A person is

1 considered to have this unbroken chain of title when:

2 (1) The official public records disclose a conveyance or other title transaction of  
3 record that occurred at least forty (40) years before the time the marketability is  
4 determined; and

5 (2) The conveyance or other title transaction purports to create an interest in:

6 (a) The person claiming the interest; or

7 (b) A person from whom, by one (1) or more title transactions of record, the  
8 purported interest has become vested in the person claiming the interest;  
9 with nothing appearing of record in either case purporting to divest the claimant  
10 of the purported interest.

11 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 381 IS CREATED TO  
12 READ AS FOLLOWS:

13 Marketable record title shall be subject to:

14 (1) All interests and defects that are inherent in the muniments of which the chain of  
15 record title is formed, provided that:

16 (a) A general reference in the muniments, or any one (1) of them, to:

17 1. Easements;

18 2. Use restrictions; or

19 3. Other interests created before the root of title;

20 shall not be sufficient to preserve them, unless specific identification is  
21 made in the muniments of a recorded title transaction that creates the  
22 easement, use restriction, or other interest; and

23 (b) Possibilities of reverter, and rights of entry or powers of termination for  
24 breach of condition subsequent, which interests are inherent in the  
25 muniments of which the chain of record title is formed and which have  
26 existed for forty (40) years or more, shall be preserved and remain effective  
27 only in the manner provided in Section 5 of this Act;

- 1 (2) All interests preserved by:  
2 (a) Filing proper notice; or  
3 (b) Possession by the same owner continuously for at least forty (40) years, in  
4 accordance with Section 5 of this Act;  
5 (3) The rights of any person arising from adverse possession or adverse user, if the  
6 period of adverse possession or adverse user was in whole or in part subsequent  
7 to the effective date of the root of title;  
8 (4) Any interest arising out of a title transaction recorded after the effective date of  
9 the root of title from which the unbroken chain of title of record is started,  
10 provided the recording shall not revive or give validity to any interest that has  
11 been before the time of the recording by the operation of Section 4 of this Act;  
12 and  
13 (5) The exceptions stated in Section 7 of this Act.

14 ➔SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 381 IS CREATED TO  
15 READ AS FOLLOWS:

16 Subject to Section 3 of this Act, marketable record title is held by its owner and shall be  
17 taken by a person dealing with the land free and clear of all interests, claims, or  
18 charges the existence of which depends upon any act, transaction, event, or omission  
19 that occurred before the effective date of the root of title. All of these interests, claims,  
20 or charges, however denominated, whether:

- 21 (1) Legal or equitable;  
22 (2) Present or future; or  
23 (3) Asserted by a person:  
24 (a) Who has full capacity to act on his or her own behalf or under a disability;  
25 (b) Within or outside the state;  
26 (c) Natural or corporate; or  
27 (d) Private or governmental;

1 are void.

2 ➔SECTION 5. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 381 IS CREATED TO  
3 READ AS FOLLOWS:

4 (1) A person claiming an interest in land may preserve and keep effective the interest  
5 by filing for record during the forty (40) year period immediately following the  
6 effective date of the root of title of the person whose record title would otherwise  
7 be marketable, a notice in writing, verified by oath, setting forth the nature of the  
8 claim. A disability or lack of knowledge of any kind on the part of anyone shall  
9 not suspend the running of the forty (40) year period. Notice may be filed for  
10 record by the claimant or by a person acting on behalf of any claimant who is:

11 (a) Under a disability;

12 (b) Unable to assert a claim on his or her own behalf; or

13 (c) One (1) of a class whose identity cannot be established or is uncertain at the  
14 time of filing the notice of claim of record.

15 (2) If the same record owner of any possessory interest in land has been in  
16 possession of the land continuously for a period of at least forty (40) years,  
17 during which period:

18 (a) No title transaction with respect to the interest appears of record in the  
19 record owner's chain of title;

20 (b) No notice has been filed by the record owner or on behalf of the record  
21 owner provided in subsection (1) of this section; and

22 (c) Possession continues to the time when marketability is being determined;  
23 the period of possession is considered equivalent to the filing of the notice  
24 immediately preceding the termination of the forty (40) year period described in  
25 subsection (1) of this section.

26 ➔SECTION 6. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 381 IS CREATED TO  
27 READ AS FOLLOWS:

- 1 (1) To be effective and entitled to be recorded, the notice under Section 5 of this Act  
2 shall:
- 3 (a) Be in the form of an affidavit;  
4 (b) State the nature of the claim to be preserved and the names and addresses  
5 of the persons for whose benefit the notice is being filed;  
6 (c) Contain an accurate and full description of all land affected by the notice in  
7 specific terms and not by general inclusions, except that if the claim is  
8 founded upon a recorded instrument, then the description in the notice may  
9 be the same as that contained in the recorded instrument;  
10 (d) State the name of each record owner of the land affected by the notice, at  
11 the time of the recording, together with the recording information of the  
12 instrument by which each record owner acquired title to the land;  
13 (e) Be made by any person who has knowledge of the relevant facts or is  
14 competent to testify concerning the facts in court; and  
15 (f) Be filed of record in the office of the county clerk in the county or counties  
16 where the land described is located.
- 17 (2) The county clerk shall:
- 18 (a) Accept for filing all notices presented to the clerk that describe the land  
19 located in the county that the clerk serves;  
20 (b) Enter and record complete copies of the notice in the same way that deeds  
21 are recorded under the names of the claimants appearing in the notice and  
22 under the names of the record owners appearing in the notice; and  
23 (c) Charge the same fees for recording the notice as are charged for recording  
24 a deed as provided under KRS 64.012.
- 25 (3) A notice prepared, executed, and recorded in conformity with the requirements of  
26 this section, or a certified copy of the notice, shall be accepted as evidence of the  
27 facts stated to the extent they affect title to the land affected by the notice.

1 (4) Any person who knowingly makes any false statement in a notice executed under  
2 this section shall be guilty of perjury under KRS Chapter 523.

3 ➔SECTION 7. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 381 IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 The provisions of Section 1 to 9 shall not be applied to bar or extinguish any:

6 (1) Lessor or the lessor's successor as a reversioner of the lessor's right of possession  
7 on the expiration of any lease, or any lessee or the lessee's successor of the  
8 lessee's rights in and to any lease, except as may be permitted under Section 9 of  
9 this Act;

10 (2) Easement or interest in the nature of an easement created or held for any  
11 railroad or public utility purpose;

12 (3) Easement or interest in the nature of an easement, the existence of which is  
13 clearly observable by physical evidence of its use;

14 (4) Easement or interest in the nature of an easement, or any rights appurtenant to  
15 an easement granted, excepted, or reserved by the instrument creating the  
16 easement or interest, including any right for future use, if the existence of the  
17 easement or interest is evidenced by the location beneath, upon, or above any part  
18 of the land described in the instrument of any pipe, valve, road, wire, cable,  
19 conduit, duct, sewer, track, pole, tower, or other physical facility and whether or  
20 not the existence of the facility is observable;

21 (5) Right, title, estate, or interest in a mineral interest, mineral estate, or mineral, and  
22 any mining or other rights pertinent to or exercisable in connection with any  
23 right, title, estate, or interest in a mineral interest, mineral estate, or mineral;

24 (6) Mortgage recorded in conformity with KRS 382.110;

25 (7) Right, title, or interest of the United States, of this state, or of any political  
26 subdivision, body politic, or agency of the United States or this state; or

27 (8) Plats, covenants, conditions, or restrictions applicable to a development, planned

1       community, subdivision, condominium property regime, or owners' associations,  
2       provided the plats, covenants, conditions, or restrictions are otherwise  
3       enforceable.

4       ➔SECTION 8. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 381 IS CREATED TO  
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6       Nothing contained in Sections 1 to 9 of this Act shall be construed to extend the period  
7       of time for the bringing of an action or for the performance of any other required act  
8       under any statutes of limitations or, except as provided in Sections 1 to 9 of this Act, to  
9       affect the operation of any statutes governing the effect of the recording of or the  
10       failure to record any instrument affecting land.

11       ➔SECTION 9. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 381 IS CREATED TO  
12 READ AS FOLLOWS:

13       Sections 1 to 9 of this Act shall be liberally construed to effect the purpose of  
14       simplifying and facilitating land title transactions by allowing persons to rely on a  
15       record chain of title as described in Section 2 of this Act, subject only to the limitations  
16       in Section 3 of this Act.