

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

Section 1. Section 4, act of June 16, 1891 (P. L. 303), entitled "An act relating to and defining the powers and duties of police magistrates in cities of the second class," is amended to read:

Section 4. The said police magistrates shall likewise have full and complete jurisdiction of suits for the recovery of fines and penalties imposed by any and all ordinances of the city in which they reside and are appointed, or by any and all ordinances and regulations relating to housing and health administered and enforced by a county health department where a violation takes place in such city, and of all cases of summary conviction arising under the laws and ordinances of or applicable to such city and under the laws, ordinances, rules and regulations relating to housing and health administered and enforced by a county department of health where a violation takes place in such city, with full power to hear the said cases, administer oaths or affirmations therein, decide the same, enforce the penalty, collect the fine or commit to prison as the case may be according to the provisions of the law and ordinances applicable thereto.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 11th day of August, A. D. 1967.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER

No. 68

AN ACT

HB 1416

Amending the act of January 24, 1966 (P. L. 1534), entitled "An act providing for the suspension of the duty to pay rent for dwellings certified to be unfit for human habitation in cities of the first class and cities of the second class and second class A and providing for the withholding and disposition of shelter allowances," reducing the time for which rent may be held in escrow, and further regulating uses of moneys deposited in escrow.

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

Section 1. Section 1, act of January 24, 1966 (P. L. 1534), entitled "An act providing for the suspension of the duty to pay rent for dwellings certified to be unfit for human habitation in cities of the first class and cities of the second class and second class A and pro-

viding for the withholding and disposition of shelter allowances,"¹ is amended to read:

Section 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, or of any agreement, whether oral or in writing, whenever the Department of Licenses and Inspections of any city of the first class, or the Department of Public Safety of any city of the second class or second class A, as the case may be, or any Public Health Department of any such city, or of the county in which such city is located, certifies a dwelling as unfit for human habitation, the duty of any tenant of such dwelling to pay, and the right of the landlord to collect rent shall be suspended without affecting any other terms or conditions of the landlord-tenant relationship, until the dwelling is certified as fit for human habitation or until the tenancy is terminated for any reason other than nonpayment of rent. During any period when the duty to pay rent is suspended, and the tenant continues to occupy the dwelling, the rent withheld shall be deposited by the tenant in an escrow account and shall be paid to the landlord when the dwelling is certified as fit for human habitation at any time within [one year] six months from the date on which the dwelling was certified as unfit for human habitation. If, at the end of [one year] six months after the certification of a dwelling as unfit for human habitation, such dwelling has not been certified as fit for human habitation, any moneys deposited in escrow on account of continued occupancy shall be payable to the depositor, except that any funds deposited in escrow may be used, for the purpose of making such dwelling fit for human habitation and for the payment of utility services for which the landlord is obligated but which he refuses or is unable to pay. No tenant shall be evicted for any reason whatsoever while rent is deposited in escrow.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 11th day of August, A. D. 1967.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER

No. 69

AN ACT

HB 71

To validate conveyances and other instruments which have been defectively acknowledged.

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

¹ "are" in original.