

**HOUSING LAW OF MICHIGAN (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 167 of 1917**  
Article V  
IMPROVEMENTS.

**125.489 Rooms; lighting and ventilation.**

Sec. 89.

Rooms, lighting and ventilation of. No room except water-closet compartments in a dwelling erected prior to the passage of this act shall hereafter be occupied unless it shall have a window or windows of an area equal to not less than 1/10 of the floor area opening directly upon the street, or upon a rear yard not less than 10 feet deep, or above the roof of an adjoining building, or upon a court located on the same lot with the dwelling or on an adjoining lot and having an area not less than 50 square feet and a minimum dimension not less than 3 feet and being open and unobstructed from the window sill to the sky, or upon a side yard located on the same lot with the dwelling or on an adjoining lot and having a minimum width not less than 2 feet, except that a room located on the top floor may be lighted by means of a skylight if the skylight has an area equal to not less than 1/10 of the floor area and is ventilated directly to the outer air by an opening or openings having an area equal to not less than 1 per cent of the floor area. A room which cannot be made to comply with the above provisions may be occupied if provided with a window having an area not less than 1/8 of the floor area of such room, 40 per cent of the area of which window shall be capable of being opened, opening into an adjoining room in the same apartment or group or suite of rooms which latter room has a window or windows of area equal to not less than 1/6 of the area of the larger of the 2 rooms involved, 40 per cent of the area of which windows shall be capable of being opened, opening directly on a street or on a rear yard of the above dimensions. In so far as possible the windows between the 2 rooms shall be in line with windows in the outer room so as to afford a maximum of light and ventilation.

**History:** 1917, Act 167, Eff. Aug. 10, 1917 ;-- CL 1929, 2577 ;-- Am. 1939, Act 303, Eff. Sept. 29, 1939 ;-- CL 1948, 125.489

**125.490 Multiple dwellings; public halls and stairs, lighting and ventilation.**

Sec. 90.

Public halls and stairs, lighting and ventilation of. In all multiple-dwellings erected prior to the passage of this act the public halls and stairs shall be provided with as much light and ventilation to the outer air as may be deemed practicable by the health officer or by such other appropriate public official as the mayor may designate, who may order the cutting in of windows and skylights and such other improvements and alterations in said dwellings as in his judgment may be necessary and appropriate to accomplish this result. All new skylights hereafter placed in such dwellings shall be in accordance with section 27 of this act and shall be of such size as may be determined to be practicable by said health officer, or by such other appropriate public official as the mayor may designate.

**History:** 1917, Act 167, Eff. Aug. 10, 1917 ;-- CL 1929, 2578 ;-- CL 1948, 125.490

**125.491 Plumbing fixtures.**

Sec. 91.

Plumbing fixtures. In all dwellings, plumbing fixtures shall be so arranged and maintained as to prevent the wetting of the supporting or surrounding framework which may cause an insanitary condition. The space beneath such fixtures shall be accessible and shall not be so enclosed as to prevent ventilation sufficient to maintain dry and sanitary conditions. The floor and wall surfaces beneath and adjacent to all plumbing fixtures shall be maintained in a sound and sanitary condition. The health officer, or such other appropriate public official as the mayor may designate, may order plumbing fixtures to be supported by metal brackets, and the space beneath left entirely open, when it is indicated that the woodwork has become damp and insanitary and cannot be properly maintained.

Defective and insanitary plumbing fixtures, which cannot be repaired, shall be replaced by approved fixtures.

**History:** 1917, Act 167, Eff. Aug. 10, 1917 ;-- CL 1929, 2579 ;-- Am. 1939, Act 303, Eff. Sept. 29, 1939 ;-- CL 1948, 125.491

#### **125.492 Privy vaults, school-sinks and water closets.**

Sec. 92.

Privy vaults, school-sinks and water-closets. Whenever a connection with a sewer is possible, all privy vaults, school-sinks, cesspools or other receptacles used to receive fecal matter, urine or sewage, shall with their contents, be completely removed and the place where they were located properly disinfected under the direction of the health officer. Such appliances shall be replaced by individual water-closets of durable non-absorbent material, properly sewer-connected, and with individual traps and properly connected flush tanks providing an ample flush of water to thoroughly cleanse the bowl. Each such water-closet shall be located inside the dwelling or other building in connection with which it is to be used in a compartment completely separated from every other water-closet, and such compartment shall contain a window of not less than 4 square feet in area opening directly to the street, or rear yard or on a side yard or court of the minimum sizes prescribed in sections 13 and 14 of this act. The floors of the water-closet compartments shall be as provided in section 35 of this act. Such water-closets shall be provided in such numbers as required by section 67 of this act. Such water-closets and all plumbing in connection therewith shall be sanitary in every respect and, except as in this act otherwise provided, shall be in accordance with the local ordinances and regulations in relation to plumbing and drainage. Pan plunger, frostproof and long hopper closets will not be permitted except upon written permit of the health officer, or such other appropriate public official as the mayor may designate. No water-closet shall be placed out of doors.

**History:** 1917, Act 167, Eff. Aug. 10, 1917 ;-- CL 1929, 2580 ;-- Am. 1939, Act 303, Eff. Sept. 29, 1939 ;-- CL 1948, 125.492

#### **125.493 Protection of basements and cellars.**

Sec. 93.

Protection of basement and cellars. Every multiple dwelling of class "b" having 20 or more sleeping rooms and exceeding 2 stories in height and having a basement or cellar, the floor above which is not of fireproof construction, shall have its basement or cellar ceiling protected with metal lath and 3/4 of an inch of portland cement or gypsum plaster, or the basement or cellar shall be protected with an approved automatic sprinkler system or an approved and self supervised and properly maintained automatic fire alarm system. The floor of the cellar or lowest floor of every dwelling shall be free from dampness, and, when necessary in the judgment of the health officer or such other appropriate public official as the mayor may designate, shall be concreted with not less than 3 inches of concrete of good quality and with a finished surface.

**History:** 1917, Act 167, Eff. Aug. 10, 1917 ;-- CL 1929, 2581 ;-- Am. 1939, Act 303, Eff. Sept. 29, 1939 ;-- CL 1948, 125.493

#### **125.494 Shafts and courts; openings.**

Sec. 94.

Shafts and courts. In every dwelling where there is a court or shaft of any kind, there shall be at the bottom of every such shaft and court a door giving sufficient access to such shaft or court to enable it to be properly cleaned out: Provided, That where there is already a window giving proper access, it shall be deemed sufficient.

In all multiple dwellings of class "b" not of fireproof construction, or not protected with an approved sprinkler system or an approved and self supervised and properly maintained automatic fire alarm system, exceeding 2 stories

in height, and having sleeping accommodations for 50 or more persons in which stairways and shafts are not made to comply with sections 39 and 46, the interior stairs, dumb waiters, elevators, clothes chutes, rubbish and all other inside shafts or openings between the various floors or stories of the building shall be enclosed or cut off with a fire resistive enclosure so as to prevent or restrict the vertical spreading of fire or smoke. All stairway shafts or openings between the cellar or basement and the story above in class "b" multiple dwellings shall be enclosed or cut off in the basement or cellar as mentioned above. Such enclosure shall be made of metal lath and 3/4 of an inch of gypsum or portland cement plaster on wood or metal studs, hollow metal, kalomine or other partitions of equivalent fire resistance. Fixed wire glass panels or wire glass windows in steel or metal covered frames may be placed in such enclosures. All door openings in such enclosures shall be protected with self closing fire doors.

**History:** 1917, Act 167, Eff. Aug. 10, 1917 ;-- CL 1929, 2582 ;-- Am. 1939, Act 303, Eff. Sept. 29, 1939 ;-- CL 1948, 125.494

#### **125.495 Egress; means above first floor.**

Sec. 95.

Egress. All parts of every multiple dwelling, above the first story, shall have access to 2 independent means of egress either of which is accessible without passing through the other. In the case of multiple dwellings erected after the passage of this act the construction and arrangement of these means of egress shall conform to provisions of section 39. In the case of multiple dwellings erected prior to the passage of this act, wherein all parts are not supplied with the means of egress specified herein, deficiencies in exit facilities may be corrected by the erection of fire escapes constructed and arranged in accordance with the provisions of section 40. Access to existing fire escapes shall be equivalent to the standards established in section 40 for fire escapes. Where there are not more than 2 apartments or 6 sleeping rooms on a floor, access to 1 means of egress may be had through a private room or apartment providing the door to such room or apartment, through which such access is to be had, is equipped with a glass panel and other appurtenances as specified in section 40 for similar access doors to fire escapes.

**History:** 1917, Act 167, Eff. Aug. 10, 1917 ;-- CL 1929, 2583 ;-- Am. 1939, Act 303, Eff. Sept. 29, 1939 ;-- CL 1948, 125.495

#### **125.496 Egress; other means.**

Sec. 96.

Additional means of egress. Whenever any multiple dwelling is not provided with means of egress conforming to the provisions of section 95, the enforcing officer shall order the installation of such additional means of egress as may be necessary to comply with the requirements of that section.

**History:** 1917, Act 167, Eff. Aug. 10, 1917 ;-- CL 1929, 2584 ;-- Am. 1939, Act 303, Eff. Sept. 29, 1939 ;-- CL 1948, 125.496

#### **125.497 Roof egress in multiple dwellings.**

Sec. 97.

Roof egress; scuttles and bulkheads. Every flat roof multiple-dwelling, exceeding 1 story in height, shall have at least 1 convenient and permanent means of access to the roof located in a public part of the building and not in a room or closet.

**History:** 1917, Act 167, Eff. Aug. 10, 1917 ;-- CL 1929, 2585 ;-- Am. 1939, Act 303, Eff. Sept. 29, 1939 ;-- CL 1948, 125.497

