

# HOUSE BILL 644

Q1

5lr1453

---

By: **Delegates Metzgar, Afzali, Glass, McDonough, Reilly, Simonaire, Szeliga, and West**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2015

Assigned to: Ways and Means

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Property Tax Credit – Elderly, Veterans, and Returning Residents**  
3 **(Welcome Home, Stay at Home Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City and the  
5 governing body of a county or municipal corporation to provide a property tax credit  
6 against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on the dwelling of  
7 certain individuals who are elderly, veterans, or recently returned to the State;  
8 providing for the amount and duration of the tax credit; authorizing the Mayor and  
9 City Council of Baltimore City and the governing body of a county or municipal  
10 corporation to provide for certain matters relating to the tax credit; defining certain  
11 terms; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to a property  
12 tax credit for certain individuals who are elderly, veterans, or recently returned to  
13 the State.

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Tax – Property  
16 Section 9–257  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Tax – Property**

22 **9–257.**

23 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
24 **INDICATED.**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(2) “DWELLING” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-105 OF THIS**  
2 **TITLE;**

3           **(3) “ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL” MEANS:**

4                   **(I) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT LEAST 65 YEARS OLD AND HAS**  
5 **LIVED IN THE SAME DWELLING FOR AT LEAST THE PRECEDING 40 YEARS;**

6                   **(II) A RETIRED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE**  
7 **UNITED STATES; OR**

8                   **(III) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO, WITHIN THE LAST 10 YEARS, RESIDED**  
9 **IN THE STATE, LEFT THE STATE TO RESIDE IN ANOTHER STATE, AND THEN**  
10 **RETURNED TO RESIDE IN THE STATE.**

11           **(B) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY OR THE**  
12 **GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY GRANT, BY LAW,**  
13 **A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION AGAINST THE COUNTY OR**  
14 **MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON THE DWELLING OF AN**  
15 **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.**

16           **(C) THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:**

17                   **(1) EQUAL 20% OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
18 **PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON THE PROPERTY; AND**

19                   **(2) BE GRANTED FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS.**

20           **(D) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY OR THE**  
21 **GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY PROVIDE, BY**  
22 **LAW, FOR:**

23                   **(1) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE TAX CREDIT UNDER**  
24 **THIS SECTION;**

25                   **(2) REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE APPLICATION AND**  
26 **UNIFORM PROCESSING OF REQUESTS FOR THE TAX CREDIT; AND**

27                   **(3) ANY OTHER PROVISION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE TAX**  
28 **CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION.**

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
2   1, 2015, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2015.