

## Chapter 300

**(Senate Bill 284)**

AN ACT concerning

**9-1-1 Specialists – Compensation and Benefits**

FOR the purpose of stating the findings and intent of the General Assembly with regard to certain 9-1-1 specialists; ~~providing a subtraction modification, up to a certain amount, under the Maryland income tax for distributions from certain retirement plans used by retired 9-1-1 specialists for certain health insurance premiums; providing a subtraction modification under the Maryland income tax, under certain circumstances, for a certain amount of retirement income attributable to certain employment as a 9-1-1 specialist;~~ repealing references to the term “9-1-1 public safety telecommunicator” and substituting references to the term “9-1-1 specialist” in certain provisions authorizing a certain property tax credit; ~~defining certain terms;~~ altering a certain term; providing for the application of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to 9-1-1 specialists.

BY adding to

Article – Public Safety  
Section 1-302.1  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2018 Replacement Volume)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~

~~Article – Tax – General  
Section 10-207(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article – Tax – General  
Section 10-207(hh)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article – Tax – General  
Section 10-209  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2016 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Tax – Property  
Section 9-262

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

**Article – Public Safety**

**1-302.1.**

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT 9-1-1 SPECIALISTS ARE KEY MEMBERS OF THE TEAM OF PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

(B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT JURISDICTIONS EMPLOYING 9-1-1 SPECIALISTS:

(1) APPROPRIATELY CLASSIFY 9-1-1 SPECIALISTS IN RECOGNITION OF THE TRAINING, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS THAT 9-1-1 SPECIALISTS POSSESS AND DEMONSTRATE IN ANSWERING AND HANDLING REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE; AND

(2) COMPENSATE 9-1-1 SPECIALISTS IN A MANNER THAT:

(I) REFLECTS THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE TEAM OF PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL ANSWERING AND RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE; AND

(II) IS COMMENSURATE WITH THE TRAINING, KNOWLEDGE, AND SKILLS THEY POSSESS.

~~(C) IN LIGHT OF THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL AFFLICTIONS STEMMING FROM THE STRESSFUL AND TRAUMATIC SITUATIONS THROUGH WHICH 9-1-1 SPECIALISTS ASSIST MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT JURISDICTIONS EMPLOYING 9-1-1 SPECIALISTS AFFORD ALL CLAIMS FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION UNDER TITLE 9 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE BY 9-1-1 SPECIALISTS FOR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AFFLICTIONS ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT THE SAME RESPECT, ATTENTION, AND CONSIDERATION AFFORDED CLAIMS FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION BY OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

~~Article Tax General~~

~~10-207.~~

~~(a) To the extent included in federal adjusted gross income, the amounts under this section are subtracted from the federal adjusted gross income of a resident to determine Maryland adjusted gross income.~~

~~(HH) (1) (i) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

~~(ii) "ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 402(L) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.~~

~~(iii) "9-1-1 SPECIALIST" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-262 OF THE TAX PROPERTY ARTICLE.~~

~~(iv) "QUALIFIED HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM" MEANS A PREMIUM FOR COVERAGE FOR THE RETIRED 9-1-1 SPECIALIST, OR THE SPOUSE OR DEPENDENTS OF THE RETIRED 9-1-1 SPECIALIST, BY AN ACCIDENT PLAN, A HEALTH PLAN, OR A QUALIFIED LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE CONTRACT.~~

~~(v) "RETIRED 9-1-1 SPECIALIST" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO, BY REASON OF DISABILITY OR ATTAINMENT OF NORMAL RETIREMENT AGE, IS SEPARATED FROM SERVICE AS A 9-1-1 SPECIALIST WITH AN EMPLOYER THAT MAINTAINS THE ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN FROM WHICH A DISTRIBUTION IS MADE.~~

~~(2) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE SUBTRACTION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION INCLUDES THE AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED FROM AN ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN OF A RETIRED 9-1-1 SPECIALIST THAT IS USED TO PAY FOR QUALIFIED HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS DURING THE TAXABLE YEAR.~~

~~(3) FOR ANY TAXABLE YEAR, THE SUBTRACTION UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT EXCEED \$3,000.~~

~~10-209.~~

~~(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated:~~

~~(2) "Correctional officer" means an individual who:~~

~~(i) was employed in:~~

- ~~1. a State correctional facility, as defined in § 1-101 of the Correctional Services Article;~~
- ~~2. a local correctional facility, as defined in § 1-101 of the Correctional Services Article;~~
- ~~3. a juvenile facility included in § 9-226 of the Human Services Article; or~~
- ~~4. a facility of the United States that is equivalent to a State or local correctional facility or a juvenile facility included in § 9-226 of the Human Services Article; and~~

~~(ii) is eligible to receive retirement income attributable to the individual's employment under item (i) of this paragraph.~~

~~(3) "Emergency services personnel" means emergency medical technicians or paramedics.~~

~~(4) (i) "Employee retirement system" means a plan:~~

~~1. established and maintained by an employer for the benefit of its employees; and~~

~~2. qualified under § 401(a), § 403, or § 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.~~

~~(ii) "Employee retirement system" does not include:~~

~~1. an individual retirement account or annuity under § 408 of the Internal Revenue Code;~~

~~2. a Roth individual retirement account under § 408A of the Internal Revenue Code;~~

~~3. a rollover individual retirement account;~~

~~4. a simplified employee pension under Internal Revenue Code § 408(k); or~~

~~5. an ineligible deferred compensation plan under § 457(f) of the Internal Revenue Code.~~

~~(5) "9-1-1 SPECIALIST" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-262 OF THE TAX-PROPERTY ARTICLE.~~

~~(b) Subject to subsections (d) and (e) of this section, to determine Maryland adjusted gross income, if, on the last day of the taxable year, a resident is at least 65 years old or is totally disabled or the resident's spouse is totally disabled, or the resident is at least 55 years old and is a retired correctional officer, law enforcement officer, **9-1-1 SPECIALIST**, or fire, rescue, or emergency services personnel of the United States, the State, or a political subdivision of the State, an amount is subtracted from federal adjusted gross income equal to the lesser of:~~

~~(1) the cumulative or total annuity, pension, or endowment income from an employee retirement system included in federal adjusted gross income; or~~

~~(2) the maximum annual benefit under the Social Security Act computed under subsection (e) of this section, less any payment received as old age, survivors, or disability benefits under the Social Security Act, the Railroad Retirement Act, or both.~~

~~(e) For purposes of subsection (b)(2) of this section, the Comptroller:~~

~~(1) shall determine the maximum annual benefit under the Social Security Act allowed for an individual who retired at age 65 for the prior calendar year; and~~

~~(2) may allow the subtraction to the nearest \$100.~~

~~(d) Military retirement income that is included in the subtraction under § 10-207(q) of this subtitle may not be taken into account for purposes of the subtraction under this section.~~

~~(e) In the case of a retired correctional officer, law enforcement officer, **9-1-1 SPECIALIST**, or fire, rescue, or emergency services personnel of the United States, the State, or a political subdivision of the State, the amount included under subsection (b)(1) of this section is limited to the first \$15,000 of retirement income that is attributable to the resident's employment as a correctional officer, a law enforcement officer, **A 9-1-1 SPECIALIST**, or fire, rescue, or emergency services personnel of the United States, the State, or a political subdivision of the State unless:~~

~~(1) the resident is at least 65 years old or is totally disabled; or~~

~~(2) the resident's spouse is totally disabled.~~

SECTION ~~3~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### Article – Tax – Property

9-262.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Dwelling” has the meaning stated in § 9–105 of this title.

(3) “9–1–1 [public safety telecommunicator] **SPECIALIST**” means an employee of a county **PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT, OR AN EMPLOYEE WORKING IN A COUNTY SAFETY ANSWERING POINT**, whose duties and responsibilities include:

(i) [answering, receiving, transferring, and dispatching] **RECEIVING AND PROCESSING 9–1–1 [calls] REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**;

(ii) other support functions **DIRECTLY** related to 9–1–1 [calls] **REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**; or

(iii) dispatching law enforcement officers, fire rescue services, emergency medical services, and other public safety services to the scene of an emergency.

(b) The governing body of a county or municipal corporation may grant, by law, a property tax credit under this section against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on a dwelling located in the county or municipal corporation that is owned by a 9–1–1 [public safety telecommunicator] **SPECIALIST** if the 9–1–1 [public safety telecommunicator] **SPECIALIST** is otherwise eligible for the credit authorized under § 9–105 of this title.

(c) For any taxable year, the credit under this section may not exceed the lesser of:

(1) \$2,500 per dwelling; or

(2) the amount of property tax imposed on the dwelling.

(d) The governing body of a county or a municipal corporation may establish, by law:

(1) subject to subsection (c) of this section, the amount of the credit under this section;

(2) the duration of the credit;

(3) additional eligibility requirements for 9–1–1 [public safety telecommunicators] **SPECIALISTS** to qualify for the credit;

(4) procedures for the application and uniform processing of requests for the credit; and

(5) any other provisions necessary to carry out this section.

~~SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018.~~

SECTION ~~5.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section ~~2~~ 2 of this Act shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2019.

SECTION ~~6.~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2019.

**Approved by the Governor, April 30, 2019.**