

Chapter 477

(House Bill 1454)

AN ACT concerning

Howard County – Transfer Tax – Rate Increase Authorization

Ho. Co. 26–20

FOR the purpose of exempting moderate income housing units from a certain tax; authorizing the ~~County Council~~ governing body of Howard County to increase the rate of the transfer tax to support certain public purposes; requiring the Director of Finance of Howard County to collect and distribute in certain amounts transfer tax proceeds attributable to an increase in the tax rate to the county general fund to be used for certain purposes; making stylistic and technical changes; and generally relating to the transfer tax in Howard County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
The Public Local Laws of Howard County
Section 20.300(a)
Article 14 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
(1977 Edition and August 2008 Supplement, as amended)
(As enacted by Chapter 138 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2018)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
The Public Local Laws of Howard County
Section 20.301 and 20.304
Article 14 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
(1977 Edition and August 2008 Supplement, as amended)
(As enacted by Chapter 311 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2019)

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

Article 14 – Howard County

20.300.

(a) **(1)** Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a tax is hereby imposed upon every instrument of writing conveying title to real or leasehold property offered for a record and recorded in Howard County with the clerk of the circuit court, for all or only that portion of such property described in such instrument which is actually located in Howard County, provided that **THE FOLLOWING SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE TAX IMPOSED BY THIS SECTION:**

(I) conveyances to the state or to any agency or instrumentality thereof, or any political subdivision of the state, or any nonprofit hospital or religious or charitable organization, association or corporation[, shall not be subject to the tax imposed by this section]; AND

(II) **CONVEYANCES OF MODERATE INCOME HOUSING UNITS.**

(2) The term “instrument of writing,” as used in this section shall be deemed to include any deed, lease, assignment of leasehold property or any other device the purpose of which is to convey title to real property, but shall not include any mortgage, deed of trust, conditional sales contract or any other device the purpose of which is to afford a security in real property rather than to convey title thereto.

20.301.

(A) [The] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE** tax imposed by this [section] **SUBTITLE** shall be levied at the rate of one percent of the actual consideration paid or to be paid for the conveyance of title and shall be collected by the Director of Finance before the Clerk of the Circuit Court may accept an instrument of writing for recordation.

(B) **THE GOVERNING BODY OF HOWARD COUNTY ~~COUNCIL~~ MAY, BY LAW RESOLUTION, INCREASE THE RATE OF THE TRANSFER TAX ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO SUPPORT THE PUBLIC PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN § 20.304(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

20.304.

(A) The [director] **DIRECTOR** of [finance] **FINANCE** shall collect and distribute transfer tax proceeds **ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE RATE OF THE TRANSFER TAX IMPOSED UNDER § 20.301(A) OF THIS SUBTITLE** in the following manner:

(1) 25% in a special fund known as “The School Site Acquisition and Construction Fund,” and disbursements from this fund shall be made only for the purposes set forth in section 9.102 of the Howard County Code;

(2) 25% in a special fund known as “The Park Land Watershed Facilities Fund,” and disbursements from this fund shall be made only for the purposes set forth in section 19.100 of the Howard County Code; and

(3) the remainder in the general fund of the county, with the stipulation that the county council shall budget this remainder as follows:

(I) 50% plus the interest thereon for the Howard County Agricultural Land Preservation Fund;

(II) 25% for community improvement and housing programs primarily serving low income individuals and families and the homeless and for urban renewal; and

(III) 25% for the acquisition or leasing of land for new fire house sites and training facilities and the construction and maintenance of fire house and training facilities, the acquisition and maintenance of fire equipment, and supplementation of financial needs of fire companies.

(B) THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHALL COLLECT ANY PROCEEDS ATTRIBUTABLE TO AN INCREASE IN THE TRANSFER TAX RATE AUTHORIZED UNDER § 20.301(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE AND DISTRIBUTE THE PROCEEDS TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE COUNTY TO BE USED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

(1) 25% FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM;

(2) 25% FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS;

(3) 25% FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AND HOUSING PROGRAMS PRIMARILY SERVING LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AND THE HOMELESS AND FOR URBAN RENEWAL; AND

(4) 25% FOR THE ACQUISITION OR LEASING OF LAND FOR NEW FIRE HOUSE SITES AND TRAINING FACILITIES AND THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE HOUSE AND TRAINING FACILITIES, THE ACQUISITION AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL NEEDS OF FIRE COMPANIES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.