

HOUSE BILL 1281

C8, Q1, Q7

4lr2216
CF SB 14

By: **Delegates Hartman, Amprey, Anderton, Arentz, Barnes, Boafo, Buckel, Chisholm, Ghrist, Griffith, Harris, Hornberger, Ivey, Mangione, McComas, T. Morgan, Otto, Pippy, Rose, and Spiegel**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Development – Tourism Zones – Designation and Benefits**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the
4 governing body of a county or municipality to designate, by law, an area within that
5 political subdivision as a tourism zone under certain circumstances; providing that
6 the designation of an area as a tourism zone may not preclude the area from also
7 being designated as a certain arts and entertainment district; authorizing a county
8 or municipality to exempt from the admissions and amusement tax gross receipts
9 from certain admissions or amusement charges levied in a tourism zone; authorizing
10 the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or
11 municipality to grant, by law, a property tax credit against the county or municipal
12 property tax imposed on certain real property and certain personal property located
13 within a tourism zone; and generally relating to the designation of tourism zones
14 within counties and municipalities.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Local Government

17 Section 18–401 through 18–403 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 4. Tourism
18 Zones”

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2013 Volume and 2023 Supplement)

21 BY adding to

22 Article – Tax – General

23 Section 4–104(g)

24 Annotated Code of Maryland

25 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

26 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – Tax – Property
2 Section 9–268 and 9–269
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Local Government**

8 **SUBTITLE 4. TOURISM ZONES.**

9 **18–401.**

10 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
11 INDICATED.

12 (B) “QUALIFYING TOURISM ENTERPRISE” MEANS A FOR–PROFIT OR
13 NONPROFIT ENTITY THAT CONDUCTS BUSINESS WITHIN A TOURISM ZONE, SUBJECT
14 TO THE LIMITATIONS SPECIFIED BY THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION WITHIN WHICH
15 THE TOURISM ZONE IS LOCATED.

16 (C) “TOURISM ZONE” MEANS A DEVELOPED ZONE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
17 USES THAT IS DESIGNATED BY A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
18 OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM AND LOCATED WITHIN THAT POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

19 **18–402.**

20 (A) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY OR THE
21 GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY MAY DESIGNATE, BY LAW, AN
22 AREA WITHIN THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION AS A TOURISM ZONE.

23 (B) IN DESIGNATING A TOURISM ZONE UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS
24 SECTION, THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION MAY PROVIDE, BY LAW, FOR:

25 (1) THE DURATION OF THE DESIGNATION; AND

26 (2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA TO QUALIFY AS A QUALIFYING TOURISM
27 ENTERPRISE.

28 (C) THE DESIGNATION OF AN AREA AS A TOURISM ZONE DOES NOT
29 PRECLUDE THE AREA FROM ALSO BEING DESIGNATED AS AN ARTS AND
30 ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT UNDER TITLE 4, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE ECONOMIC
31 DEVELOPMENT ARTICLE.

1 18-403.

2 (A) IN A TOURISM ZONE:

3 (1) THE EXEMPTION FROM THE ADMISSIONS AND AMUSEMENT TAX
4 UNDER § 4-104(G) OF THE TAX – GENERAL ARTICLE APPLIES TO QUALIFYING
5 TOURISM ENTERPRISES; AND

6 (2) THE PROPERTY TAX CREDITS UNDER §§ 9-268 AND 9-269 OF THE
7 TAX – PROPERTY ARTICLE APPLY.

8 (B) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1 PRECEDING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ITS
9 ESTABLISHMENT, THE POLITICAL JURISDICTION SHALL NOTIFY THE COMPTROLLER
10 THAT A TOURISM DISTRICT IS ESTABLISHED.

11 (C) A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THAT ESTABLISHES A TOURISM ZONE SHALL
12 NOTIFY THE COMPTROLLER OF:

13 (1) ANY QUALIFYING TOURISM ENTERPRISES TO WHICH THE
14 EXEMPTION FROM THE ADMISSIONS AND AMUSEMENT TAX UNDER § 4-104(G) OF
15 THE TAX – GENERAL ARTICLE APPLIES;

16 (2) THE DATE ON WHICH THE QUALIFYING TOURISM ENTERPRISE
17 QUALIFIED FOR THE EXEMPTION; AND

18 (3) THE DATE, IF ANY, ON WHICH THE EXEMPTION FOR THE
19 QUALIFYING TOURISM ENTERPRISE EXPIRES.

20 Article – Tax – General

21 4-104.

22 (G) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “QUALIFYING TOURISM ENTERPRISE” AND
23 “TOURISM ZONE” HAVE THE MEANINGS STATED IN § 18-401 OF THE LOCAL
24 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

25 (2) A COUNTY OR A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY EXEMPT FROM
26 THE ADMISSIONS AND AMUSEMENT TAX GROSS RECEIPTS FROM ANY ADMISSIONS OR
27 AMUSEMENT CHARGE LEVIED BY A QUALIFYING TOURISM ENTERPRISE IN A
28 TOURISM ZONE.

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

Article – Tax – Property**9–268.**

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “QUALIFYING TOURISM ENTERPRISE” AND “TOURISM ZONE” HAVE THE MEANINGS STATED IN § 18–401 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(B) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY OR THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY GRANT, BY LAW, A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT AGAINST THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON A BUILDING THAT:

(1) IS LOCATED IN A TOURISM ZONE; AND

(2) IS OWNED BY A QUALIFYING TOURISM ENTERPRISE.

(C) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY OR THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY PROVIDE, BY LAW, FOR:

(1) THE AMOUNT AND DURATION OF THE TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION;

(2) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION;

(3) REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE APPLICATION AND UNIFORM PROCESSING OF REQUESTS FOR THE TAX CREDIT; AND

(4) ANY OTHER PROVISION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION.

9–269.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “QUALIFYING TOURISM ENTERPRISE” AND “TOURISM ZONE” HAVE THE MEANINGS STATED IN § 18–401 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(B) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY OR THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY GRANT, BY LAW, A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT AGAINST THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

1 PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON PERSONAL PROPERTY OF A QUALIFYING TOURISM
2 ENTERPRISE THAT IS LOCATED WITHIN A TOURISM ZONE.

3 (C) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY OR THE
4 GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY PROVIDE, BY
5 LAW, FOR:

6 (1) THE AMOUNT AND DURATION OF THE TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS
7 SECTION;

8 (2) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE TAX CREDIT UNDER
9 THIS SECTION;

10 (3) REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE APPLICATION AND
11 UNIFORM PROCESSING OF REQUESTS FOR THE TAX CREDIT; AND

12 (4) ANY OTHER PROVISION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE TAX
13 CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION.

14 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall be
15 applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2024.

16 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
17 1, 2024.