
By: Delegates Rosenberg and C. Mitchell

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 19, 1996

CHAPTER ____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Property Tax Credit for Renovations to Commercial Buildings to Provide**
3 **State-of-the-Art Communications and Utility Systems**

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 grant, by law, a tax credit
6 against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on certain real
7 property to which certain renovations have been made to meet certain
8 communications and utility standards for accommodating advanced computer and
9 telecommunications systems; providing for calculation of the amount of the credit;
10 requiring certain review and approval of the plans for and implementation of
11 renovations to qualify for the tax credit; and generally relating to authorization for
12 a property tax credit for certain renovations to meet certain communications and
13 utility standards for accommodating advanced computer and telecommunications
14 systems.

15 BY adding to

16 Article - Tax - Property

17 Section 9-227

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

2

1 **Article - Tax - Property**

2 9-227.

3 (A) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY OR THE
4 GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY GRANT, BY
5 LAW, A TAX CREDIT AGAINST THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
6 PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON A COMMERCIAL BUILDING LOCATED IN AN ELIGIBLE
7 AREA TO WHICH QUALIFYING RENOVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO MEET
8 STATE-OF-THE-ART COMMUNICATIONS AND UTILITY STANDARDS FOR
9 ACCOMMODATING ADVANCED COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS,
10 INCLUDING FIBER-OPTIC CABLE, EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL CAPACITY, AND
11 EMERGENCY BACKUP POWER.

12 (B) FOR ANY TAXABLE YEAR, THE AMOUNT OF A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT
13 GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT EXCEED THE LESSER OF:

14 (1) 10% OF THE COST OF RENOVATIONS TO A COMMERCIAL BUILDING
15 TO MEET STATE-OF-THE-ART COMMUNICATION AND UTILITY STANDARDS FOR
16 ACCOMMODATING ADVANCED COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
17 EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING FIBER-OPTIC CABLE, EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL CAPACITY,
18 AND EMERGENCY BACKUP POWER; OR

19 (2) THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PROPERTY TAX
20 OTHERWISE DUE FOR THAT TAXABLE YEAR.

21 (C) A TAX CREDIT GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE GRANTED
22 FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS.

23 (D) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY OR THE
24 GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY DESIGNATE
25 AN AREA WITHIN THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AS AN AREA
26 ELIGIBLE FOR THE TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE AREA IS ELIGIBLE FOR
27 DESIGNATION AS A DESIGNATED NEIGHBORHOOD UNDER THE NEIGHBORHOOD
28 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CREATED UNDER ARTICLE 83B, §§ 2-1301
29 THROUGH 2-1308 OF THE CODE.

30 (E) A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT MAY NOT BE GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION
31 UNLESS A REGISTERED COMMUNICATIONS DISTRIBUTION DESIGNER, ON BEHALF
32 OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION:

33 (1) BEFORE CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES, REVIEWS AND APPROVES
34 THE PLANS FOR THE RENOVATIONS AS MEETING INDUSTRY STANDARDS PUBLISHED
35 BY THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
36 INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (EIA/TIA BUILDING STANDARD 568); AND

37 (2) DURING CONSTRUCTION AND ON COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION,
38 REVIEWS AND APPROVES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RENOVATIONS AS
39 CONFORMING WITH THE APPROVED PLANS.

40 (F) THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE OR THE GOVERNING
41 BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY ESTABLISH:

HOUSE BILL 970

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1 (1) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON THE AMOUNT OR DURATION OF
2 CREDITS UNDER THIS SECTION;

3 (2) ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CREDIT; OR

4 (3) PROCEDURES OR REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REVIEW AND
5 APPROVAL OF CREDITS.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 July 1, 1996.