

BY: Conference Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 203

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike in its entirety line 2 and substitute "State Property Tax Exemption - Property Tax Credits - Land Trusts and Western Shore Conservancy"; in line 3, after "from" insert "State"; in line 4, after "purposes" insert "; authorizing a county to grant, under certain conditions, a property tax credit for certain property owned by the Western Shore Conservancy or certain land trusts and used for certain purposes; and providing for the application of this Act"; in line 12, strike "7-241" and substitute "7-304"; and after line 14, insert:

"BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Tax - Property

Section 9-220

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 6, strike "7-241." and substitute "7-304."; in line 7, after "TO" insert "STATE"; after line 22, insert:

"9-220.

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

(2) "Conservation land" means real property that is:

(i) subject to a perpetual conservation easement donated to a land trust on or after July 1, 1991;

(Over)

(ii) 1. acquired by a land trust on or after July 1, 1991;
2. owned in fee by that land trust; and
3. subject to a letter of intent, agreement, or option agreement for the resale of the property to a government agency; [or]

(iii) owned by the Potomac Conservancy; OR

(IV) OWNED BY THE WESTERN SHORE CONSERVANCY.

(3) "Land trust" means a qualified conservation organization as defined in § 3-2A-01 of the Natural Resources 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 conservation land OR PROPERTY OWNED BY A LAND TRUST THAT QUALIFIES UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, that is used:

(1) to assist in the preservation of a natural area;

(2) for the environmental education of the public;

(3) generally to promote conservation; or

(4) for the maintenance of:

(i) a natural area for public use; or

(ii) a sanctuary for wildlife.

(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 property tax credit under this section; and

(2) any other provision necessary to carry out the property tax credit under this section.

(D) TO QUALIFY FOR A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION, A LAND TRUST SHALL:

(1) BE CERTIFIED BY THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST TO BE A LAND TRUST IN GOOD STANDING AND TO HAVE A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT IN EFFECT; AND

(2) OBTAIN A WRITTEN CERTIFICATION EVERY 5 YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 1998, OR AS SCHEDULED BY THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST.”;

and strike in its entirety line 24 and substitute “June 1, 1998, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 1998.”.