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By: **Delegates Hecht, Mandel, Kopp, Shriver, McIntosh, Donoghue,  
Rudolph, and Conway**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 1998

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Property Tax Exemption - Charitable Organizations - Abatement of**  
3 **Property Tax in Year of Transfer**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that, under certain circumstances, property tax on any  
5 property that becomes exempt during a taxable year is abated from the date  
6 during the taxable year when the instrument transferring title to certain  
7 charitable organizations is recorded; and providing for the application of this  
8 Act.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article - Tax - Property  
11 Section 7-104 and 7-202  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - Tax - Property**

17 7-104.

18 (a) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section and in [§ 7-215 ] §§  
19 7-202 AND 7-215 of this title, property tax on wholly exempt property shall be abated  
20 for the taxable year that follows the date on which the property became exempt.

21 (b) If an owner of property subject to an exemption on June 30 files an  
22 application for abatement on or before the following September 1 with the  
23 Department or the supervisor, the tax is abated for the taxable year.

24 (c) If property that is exempt from property tax is transferred to a person  
25 whose use of the property qualifies the property for an exemption from the date of  
26 transfer, then the property tax shall be abated from that date.

1 7-202.

2 (a) In this section:

3 (1) "fraternal organization" means any organization that:

4 (i) is conducted solely for the benefit of its members and its  
5 beneficiaries;

6 (ii) is operated on a lodge system with a ritualistic activity; and

7 (iii) has a representative form of government;

8 (2) "fraternal organization" includes a sororal organization; and

9 (3) "fraternal organization" does not include:

10 (i) any college or high school fraternity or sorority; or

11 (ii) any other fraternal or sororal organization the membership of  
12 which is restricted wholly or largely to students or graduates of an educational  
13 institution or a professional school.

14 (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, property is not  
15 subject to property tax if the property:

16 (i) is necessary for and actually used exclusively for a charitable or  
17 educational purpose to promote the general welfare of the people of the State,  
18 including an activity or an athletic program of an educational institution; and

19 (ii) is owned by:

20 1. a nonprofit hospital;

21 2. a nonprofit charitable, fraternal, educational, or literary  
22 organization including:

23 A. a public library that is authorized under Title 23 of the  
24 Education Article; and

25 B. a men's or women's club that is a nonpolitical and  
26 nonstock club;

27 3. a corporation or trustee that holds the property for the sole  
28 benefit of an organization that qualifies for an exemption under this section; or

29 4. a nonprofit housing corporation.

30 (2) The exemption under paragraph (1)(ii)1. of this subsection includes  
31 any personal property initially leased by a nonprofit hospital for more than 1 year  
32 under a lease that is noncancellable except for cause.

1 (c) (1) Except for a nonprofit hospital, not more than 100 acres of real  
2 property owned by an exempt organization and appurtenant to the premises of the  
3 exempt organization is exempt from property tax, if the property is located outside of  
4 a municipal corporation or Baltimore City.

5 (2) Not more than 100 acres of real property of a nonprofit hospital that  
6 is appurtenant to the hospital is exempt from property tax.

7 (D) NOTWITHSTANDING § 7-104 OF THIS TITLE AND AFTER FILING THE  
8 APPLICATION PROVIDED BY § 7-103 OF THIS TITLE, PROPERTY TAX ON ANY  
9 PROPERTY THAT IS TRANSFERRED TO A NONPROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION  
10 QUALIFIED UNDER § 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE AND THAT  
11 BECOMES EXEMPT UNDER THIS SECTION IS ABATED FROM THE DATE DURING THE  
12 TAXABLE YEAR WHEN THE INSTRUMENT TRANSFERRING TITLE TO THE  
13 ORGANIZATION IS RECORDED.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
15 July 1, 1998 and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30,  
16 1998.