Q6 SB 120/03 - B&T

7lr0885

By: Senators Currie, Frosh, Middleton, Conway, Astle, Britt, Edwards, Exum, Forehand, Gladden, Hooper, Jones, Klausmeier, Lenett, Madaleno, McFadden, Muse, Pinsky, Pugh, Raskin, Robey, and Rosapepe Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007 Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2

Land Preservation and School Construction Assistance Act of 2007

3 FOR the purpose of imposing recordation and transfer taxes on the transfer of 4 controlling interest in certain entities owning certain interests in real property 5 in Maryland; requiring the counties and Baltimore City for certain fiscal years 6 to dedicate certain recordation tax revenues to public school construction and 7 renovation; requiring the filing of a certain report; providing for a filing fee; 8 establishing the rate of taxation and the method of calculation of tax liability; 9 exempting certain transfers; providing for interest and a penalty for certain 10 filings; requiring the Department of Assessments and Taxation to adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; providing for a delayed effective date; 11 requiring the Department of Assessments and Taxation to deduct and credit 12 certain revenues to a certain fund; and generally relating to the taxation of 13 14 transfers of controlling interests in certain entities.

- 15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- Article Tax Property 16
- Section 12–110(d) and 13–209(a) 17
- Annotated Code of Maryland 18
- (2001 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement) 19
- 20 BY adding to
- Article Tax Property 21
- Section 12-110(e), 12-116, and 13-103 22

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Annotated Code of Marvland 1 2 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement) SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 3 4 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: 5 **Article – Tax – Property** 6 12 - 110.7 (d) (1) ТНЕ DEPARTMENT SHALL DEDUCT THE COST OF 8 ADMINISTERING THE RECORDATION TAX FROM THE TAXES COLLECTED UNDER THIS TITLE AND CREDIT THOSE REVENUES TO THE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER 9 § 1–203.3 OF THE CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS ARTICLE. 10 11 (2) [The] AFTER DEDUCTING THE REVENUES REQUIRED UNDER 12 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE recordation tax collected under [§ 12–103(d)] §§ 12–103(D) AND 12–116 of this title shall be paid to the Comptroller. 13 [After deduction of the cost to the Department of collecting the tax, the] THE 14 Comptroller shall distribute the revenue to the counties in the ratio that the 15 recordation tax collected in the prior fiscal year in each county bears to the total 16 17 recordation tax collected in all counties in that year. 18 **(E)** EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS (1) SUBSECTION, FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2007, 19 BUT BEFORE JULY 1, 2011, FROM THE RECORDATION TAX REVENUE RECEIVED 20 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR, EACH COUNTY AND BALTIMORE CITY SHALL 21 22 DISTRIBUTE THE FOLLOWING AMOUNT TO A SPECIAL FUND, TO BE USED TO PAY 23 ONLY FOR THE COSTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION, 24 INCLUDING PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE ON BONDS ISSUED TO PAY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION: 25 26 ALLEGANY \$ 194,483 27 **ANNE ARUNDEL** 5,423,188 28 **BALTIMORE CITY** 5.503.842 29 **BALTIMORE** 10,010,535 30 CALVERT 206,249

 $\mathbf{2}$

| 1 | CAROLINE | 103,244 |
|----|------------------------|------------|
| 2 | CARROLL | 572,629 |
| 3 | CECIL | 275,983 |
| 4 | CHARLES | 635,051 |
| 5 | DORCHESTER | 237,941 |
| 6 | Frederick | 1,259,692 |
| 7 | GARRETT | 185,564 |
| 8 | HARFORD | 1,578,950 |
| 9 | HOWARD | 3,419,937 |
| 10 | KENT | 122,344 |
| 11 | MONTGOMERY | 14,739,815 |
| 12 | PRINCE GEORGE'S | 8,950,826 |
| 13 | QUEEN ANNE'S | 203,578 |
| 14 | ST. MARY'S | 660,986 |
| 15 | SOMERSET | 33,310 |
| 16 | TALBOT | 400,653 |
| 17 | WASHINGTON | 626,786 |
| 18 | WICOMICO | 316,216 |
| 19 | WORCESTER | 758,200 |

(2) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2007, THE
 AMOUNT REQUIRED TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO A SPECIAL FUND BY EACH COUNTY
 AND BALTIMORE CITY IS ONE-HALF OF THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH
 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(3) FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR, THE AMOUNT THAT A COUNTY IS
 REQUIRED TO DISTRIBUTE TO A SPECIAL FUND UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT

EXCEED THE AMOUNT BY WHICH THE TOTAL REVENUE COLLECTED BY THE
 COUNTY FROM RECORDATION AND TRANSFER TAXES FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR
 EXCEEDS THE TOTAL REVENUE COLLECTED BY THE COUNTY FROM
 RECORDATION AND TRANSFER TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007, AFTER
 ADJUSTING FOR ANY CHANGE IN TAX RATES.

6 (4) RECORDATION TAX REVENUES DEDICATED TO PUBLIC 7 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION ARE 8 INTENDED TO SUPPLEMENT FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND 9 RENOVATION AND MAY NOT SUPPLANT OTHER COUNTY OR STATE FUNDING FOR 10 PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION.

11 **12–116.**

12 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE 13 MEANINGS INDICATED.

14

(2) "CONTROLLING INTEREST" MEANS:

15(I)MORE THAN 80% OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF ALL CLASSES16OF STOCK OF A CORPORATION;

(II) MORE THAN 80% OF THE TOTAL INTEREST IN CAPITAL
 AND PROFITS OF A PARTNERSHIP, ASSOCIATION, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY,
 OR OTHER UNINCORPORATED FORM OF DOING BUSINESS; OR

20(III) MORE THAN 80% OF THE BENEFICIAL INTEREST IN A21TRUST.

(3) "FINAL TRANSFER" MEANS THAT TRANSFER OF ANY PORTION
OF A CONTROLLING INTEREST WHICH COMPLETES THE TRANSFER OF A
CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY ENTITY.

25 (4) (I) "PLAN OF TRANSFER" MEANS AN INTENTIONAL PLAN
26 OR PROGRAM TO TRANSFER THE CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY
27 ENTITY.

"PLAN OF TRANSFER" DOES NOT INCLUDE A SERIES OF **(II)** 1 2 SALES OF SHARES OF A PUBLICLY TRADED ENTITY. "REAL PROPERTY" MEANS REAL PROPERTY LOCATED 3 (5) **(I)** 4 IN THE STATE. 5 **(II) "REAL PROPERTY" DOES NOT INCLUDE:** A LEASEHOLD, UNLESS CREATED BY A LEASE 6 1. 7 THAT IS REQUIRED TO BE RECORDED UNDER § 3-101(A) OF THE REAL 8 **PROPERTY ARTICLE: OR** 9 2. ANY MORTGAGE, DEED OF TRUST, OR OTHER LIEN UPON OR SECURITY INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY THAT SECURES AN 10 11 **INDEBTEDNESS.** "REAL PROPERTY ENTITY" MEANS A CORPORATION, 12 (6) **(I)** PARTNERSHIP, ASSOCIATION, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, LIMITED LIABILITY 13 PARTNERSHIP, OTHER UNINCORPORATED FORM OF DOING BUSINESS, OR TRUST 14 THAT DIRECTLY OR BENEFICIALLY OWNS REAL PROPERTY THAT: 15 16 1. CONSTITUTES AT LEAST 80% OF THE VALUE OF 17 **ITS ASSETS; AND** 18 2. HAS AN AGGREGATE VALUE OF AT LEAST \$500,000. 19 20 **(II)** FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE VALUE 21 OF REAL PROPERTY SHALL BE DETERMINED WITHOUT REDUCTION FOR ANY MORTGAGE, DEED OF TRUST, OR OTHER LIEN ON OR SECURITY INTEREST IN 22 THE REAL PROPERTY. 23 (III) "REAL PROPERTY ENTITY" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN 24 25 ENTITY WITH LAND HOLDINGS THAT, OTHER THAN HOMESITES OR AREAS OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, ARE 26 27 ENTIRELY SUBJECT TO AN AGRICULTURAL USE ASSESSMENT UNDER § 8-209 OF

THIS ARTICLE.

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1 (B) (1) THE RECORDATION TAX IS IMPOSED ON THE TRANSFER OF A 2 CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY ENTITY AS IF THE REAL 3 PROPERTY DIRECTLY OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY THE REAL PROPERTY 4 ENTITY WERE CONVEYED BY AN INSTRUMENT OF WRITING THAT IS RECORDED 5 WITH THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR A COUNTY OR FILED WITH THE 6 DEPARTMENT UNDER § 12–102 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

7 (2) (I) THE RECORDATION TAX IS IMPOSED ON THE
8 CONSIDERATION PAYABLE FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE CONTROLLING INTEREST
9 IN THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY.

10(II) THE CONSIDERATION TO WHICH THE RECORDATION11TAX APPLIES INCLUDES THE AMOUNT OF:

121. ANY MORTGAGE, DEED OF TRUST, OR OTHER LIEN13ON OR SECURITY INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY DIRECTLY OR14BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY; AND

152.ANY OTHER DEBT OR ENCUMBRANCE OF THE16REAL PROPERTY ENTITY.

(III) THE CONSIDERATION TO WHICH THE RECORDATION
 TAX APPLIES IS REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT ALLOCABLE TO THE ASSETS OF THE
 REAL PROPERTY ENTITY OTHER THAN REAL PROPERTY.

(IV) THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY HAS THE BURDEN OF
 ESTABLISHING TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT THE
 CONSIDERATION REFERRED TO IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH AND
 THE AMOUNT OF ANY CONSIDERATION ALLOCABLE TO ASSETS OTHER THAN
 REAL PROPERTY REFERRED TO IN SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(V) IF THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY FAILS TO ESTABLISH
THE AMOUNT OF CONSIDERATION REFERRED TO IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS
PARAGRAPH, THE RECORDATION TAX IS IMPOSED ON THE VALUE OF THE REAL
PROPERTY DIRECTLY OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY THE REAL PROPERTY
ENTITY DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT AT THE DATE OF FINALITY
IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE DATE OF THE FINAL TRANSFER.

(3) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN § 12–103(D) OF THIS
 SUBTITLE, THE RECORDATION TAX IS APPLIED AT THE RATE SET UNDER
 § 12–103(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE BY THE COUNTY WHERE THE REAL PROPERTY IS
 LOCATED.

5 (C) (1) THE TRANSFER OF A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL 6 PROPERTY ENTITY IS NOT SUBJECT TO RECORDATION TAX IF THE TRANSFER OF 7 THE REAL PROPERTY BY AN INSTRUMENT OF WRITING BETWEEN THE SAME 8 PARTIES AND UNDER THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD HAVE BEEN EXEMPT 9 UNDER § 12–108 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

10 (2) THE RECORDATION TAX IS NOT IMPOSED ON THE TRANSFER
 11 OF A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY ENTITY EFFECTED IN MORE
 12 THAN ONE TRANSACTION IF:

13(I) THE TRANSFER IS COMPLETED OVER A PERIOD OF14MORE THAN 12 MONTHS; OR

15(II)THE TRANSFER IS NOT MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A16PLAN OF TRANSFER.

17 (3) THE RECORDATION TAX IS NOT IMPOSED ON THE TRANSFER 18 OF A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY ENTITY TO ANOTHER 19 BUSINESS IF THE OWNERSHIP INTERESTS IN THE TRANSFEREE BUSINESS 20 ENTITY ARE HELD BY THE SAME PERSONS AND IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS IN 21 THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY THE CONTROLLING INTEREST OF WHICH WAS 22 TRANSFERRED.

(4) THE RECORDATION TAX IS NOT IMPOSED ON THE TRANSFER
 OF A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY ENTITY IF EACH
 TRANSFEROR, EACH TRANSFEREE, AND EACH REAL PROPERTY ENTITY IS:

(I) A SUBSIDIARY CORPORATION, ALL OF THE STOCK OF
WHICH IS OWNED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, BY A COMMON PARENT
CORPORATION;

(II) A PARTNERSHIP, ALL OF THE INTERESTS IN WHICH ARE
 OWNED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, BY ONE OR MORE SUBSIDIARIES OR THE
 COMMON PARENT CORPORATION; OR

(III) THE COMMON PARENT CORPORATION. 1 2 (5) THE RECORDATION TAX IS NOT IMPOSED ON THE TRANSFER 3 OF A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY ENTITY IF THE TRANSFEREE OF THE CONTROLLING INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY 4 5 IS: 6 **(I)** A NONSTOCK CORPORATION ORGANIZED UNDER TITLE 7 5, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS ARTICLE; AND 8 **(II) REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AS A** CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY UNDER ARTICLE 70B, § 9 OF THE 9 10 CODE. (6) 11 THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY HAS THE BURDEN OF 12 ESTABLISHING TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT THE 13 APPLICABILITY OF ANY EXEMPTION REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPHS (1) THROUGH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION. 14 **(D)** (1) THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY SHALL FILE WITH THE 15 DEPARTMENT A REPORT OF ANY TRANSFER OF A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN 16 THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY THAT IS COMPLETED WITHIN A PERIOD OF 12 17 MONTHS OR LESS WITHIN 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE DATE OF THE FINAL 18 19 TRANSFER. 20 (2) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE ALL INFORMATION TO ESTABLISH TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT: 21 22 THE CONSIDERATION REFERRED TO IN SUBSECTION **(I)** 23 (B)(2)(I) OF THIS SECTION; THE AMOUNT OF ASSETS OTHER THAN REAL ESTATE 24 **(II)** REFERRED TO IN SUBSECTION (B)(2)(II) OF THIS SECTION; AND 25 26 (III) ANY EXEMPTION PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION (C) OF 27 THIS SECTION. 28 (3) THE REPORT SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY PAYMENT OF:

(I) A \$20 FILING FEE; AND 1 2 **(II)** ANY TAX, INTEREST, AND PENALTY THAT IS DUE. 3 **(E)** (1) IF ANY TAX DUE UNDER THIS SECTION REMAINS UNPAID FOR **30** DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FINAL TRANSFER, THEN: 4 5 **(I)** INTEREST ON THE UNPAID AMOUNT SHALL ACCRUE 6 THEREAFTER AT THE RATE OF 1% PER MONTH; AND 7 (II) A PENALTY OF 10% OF THE UNPAID AMOUNT SHALL BE 8 DUE. 9 (2) ANY TAX, INTEREST, AND PENALTY DUE UNDER THIS SECTION 10 IS AN OBLIGATION OF THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY. FOR REASONABLE CAUSE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WAIVE THE 11 (3) 12 IMPOSITION OF INTEREST OR PENALTY. 13 **(F)** THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO: 14 (1) A PLEDGE OF STOCK OR OTHER INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY ENTITY AS SECURITY FOR A LOAN; OR 15 (2) 16 THE ADMISSION TO THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY OF ADDITIONAL SHAREHOLDERS, PARTNERS, BENEFICIAL OWNERS, OR OTHER 17 18 MEMBERS INCIDENT TO THE RAISING OF ADDITIONAL CAPITAL THROUGH A 19 PUBLIC OR PRIVATE OFFERING OF STOCK OR OTHER INTERESTS IN THE REAL 20 **PROPERTY ENTITY IF:** THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE REAL PROPERTY 21 **(I)** 22 ENTITY IS NOT SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED; AND (II) UNDER THE TERMS OF THE OFFERING, NONE OF THE 23 24 NEW MEMBERS IS EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY. 25

1(G)(1)THEDEPARTMENTSHALLADOPTREGULATIONSTO2ADMINISTER THIS SECTION.

3 (2) THE REGULATIONS SHALL INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL
 4 STANDARDS AND EXEMPTIONS TO ASSURE THAT:

5 (I) A TAX IS IMPOSED WHEN A TRANSACTION IS 6 STRUCTURED INVOLVING A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY 7 ENTITY TO AVOID PAYMENT OF THE RECORDATION TAX;

8 (II) EXEMPTIONS PROVIDED BY LAW WHEN REAL PROPERTY
 9 IS TRANSFERRED BY AN INSTRUMENT OF WRITING ARE APPLICABLE; AND

10(III) THERE IS NO DOUBLE TAXATION OF A SINGLE11TRANSACTION.

12 **13–103.**

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "CONTROLLING INTEREST", "REAL PROPERTY",
 AND "REAL PROPERTY ENTITY" HAVE THE MEANINGS STATED IN § 12–116 OF
 THIS ARTICLE.

16 **(B) (1)** THE TAXES UNDER THIS TITLE ARE IMPOSED ON THE 17 TRANSFER OF A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY ENTITY AS IF 18 THE REAL PROPERTY DIRECTLY OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY THE REAL 19 PROPERTY ENTITY WERE CONVEYED BY AN INSTRUMENT OF WRITING THAT IS 20 RECORDED WITH THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR A COUNTY OR FILED 21 WITH THE DEPARTMENT UNDER § 13–202 OF THIS TITLE.

(2) THE TAXES UNDER THIS SECTION ARE IMPOSED ON THE
CONSIDERATION PAYABLE FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE CONTROLLING INTEREST
IN THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY OR ON THE VALUE OF THE REAL PROPERTY
DIRECTLY OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY THE REAL PROPERTY ENTITY, AS
PROVIDED IN § 12–116(B)(2) OF THIS ARTICLE.

27 (3) (I) EXCEPT FOR THE COUNTY TRANSFER TAX, THE TAXES
 28 UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE APPLIED AT THE RATES ESTABLISHED IN THIS
 29 TITLE.

(II) THE COUNTY TRANSFER TAX SHALL BE APPLIED AT THE 1 2 RATE IMPOSED BY THE COUNTY WHERE THE REAL PROPERTY IS LOCATED. 3 **(C)** THE TAXES UNDER THIS TITLE ARE NOT IMPOSED ON THE 4 TRANSFER OF A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY ENTITY IN ANY 5 **OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED:** 6 (1) IN § 13–207 OF THIS TITLE THAT EXEMPTS AN INSTRUMENT 7 OF WRITING FROM THE TRANSFER TAX; OR 8 **(2)** IN § 12–116(C) OF THIS ARTICLE THAT EXEMPTS THE 9 TRANSFER OF A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL PROPERTY ENTITY FROM 10 THE RECORDATION TAX. 11 IN EACH INSTANCE IN WHICH A CONTROLLING INTEREST IN A REAL **(D)** 12 PROPERTY ENTITY IS TRANSFERRED, THE PROVISIONS OF § 12–116(D) AND (E) 13 OF THIS ARTICLE ARE APPLICABLE. 14 **(E)** THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED IN § 12–116(F) OF THIS ARTICLE. 15 16 **(F)** THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ADMINISTER 17 THIS SECTION IN THE SAME MANNER AS IN § 12–116(G) OF THIS ARTICLE. 18 13 - 209.19 (1) Тне DEPARTMENT (a) SHALL DEDUCT THE COST OF 20 ADMINISTERING THE TRANSFER TAX FROM THE TAXES COLLECTED UNDER THIS 21 TITLE AND CREDIT THOSE REVENUES TO THE FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 1–203.3 OF THE CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS ARTICLE. 22 23 (2) [The] AFTER DEDUCTING THE REVENUES REQUIRED UNDER **PARAGRAPH** (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE revenue from transfer tax is payable to 24 the Comptroller for deposit in a special fund. 25 26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 27 January 1, 2008.