

# HOUSE BILL 253

Q4

8lr1536

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By: **The Minority Leader and Delegates Aumann, Bartlett, Bates, Beitzel, Boteler, Costa, Dwyer, Eckardt, Elliott, Elmore, Frank, George, Haddaway, Impallaria, Jennings, Kach, King, Kipke, Krebs, McComas, McConkey, McDonough, McKee, Miller, Myers, Norman, O'Donnell, Schuh, Shank, Shewell, Smigiel, Sossi, Stifler, Stocksdales, Stull, Walkup, and Weldon**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2008

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sales and Use Tax - Computer Services**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of "taxable service" under the sales and use  
4 tax to repeal the tax on certain computer services; providing certain sales and  
5 use tax exemptions relating to certain computer services and certain computer  
6 software maintenance contracts; repealing a certain termination date; repealing  
7 a certain definition; and generally relating to the repeal of the sales and use tax  
8 on certain computer services.

9 BY repealing

10 Article - Tax - General

11 Section 11-101(c-1)

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

14 (As enacted by Chapter 3 of the Acts of the General Assembly of the 2007

15 Special Session)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

17 Article - Tax - General

18 Section 11-101(m) and 11-219

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

21 (As enacted by Chapter 3 of the Acts of the General Assembly of the 2007

22 Special Session)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Chapter 3 of the Acts of the General Assembly of the 2007 Special Session  
2 Section 13

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

5 **Article – Tax – General**

6 11–101.

7 [(c–1) (1) “Computer service” includes:

8 (i) computer facilities management and operation;

9 (ii) custom computer programming;

10 (iii) computer system planning and design that integrate  
11 computer hardware, software, and communication technologies;

12 (iv) computer disaster recovery;

13 (v) data processing, storage, and recovery;

14 (vi) hardware or software installation, maintenance, and repair.

15 (2) “Computer service” does not include:

16 (i) Internet access, as defined in the federal Internet Tax  
17 Freedom Act;

18 (ii) typing or data entry on word processing equipment;

19 (iii) computer training;

20 (iv) the installation, maintenance, or repair of tangible personal  
21 property other than computer hardware or software that includes computer hardware  
22 or software as a component part; or

23 (v) a service otherwise described in paragraph (1) of this  
24 subsection that is provided as part of or in connection with:

25 1. electronic fund transfers, financial transactions,  
26 automated teller machine transactions, or other banking or trust services;

27 2. business management, account management,  
28 personnel, payroll, employee benefit, or other administrative services;



1 (1) is not a taxable service; and

2 (2) involves a sale as an inconsequential element for which no  
3 separate charge is made.

4 (b) The sales and use tax does not apply to a sale of [computer services for  
5 use by an individual participating in a home school program as an alternative to  
6 attendance at public or private school for elementary or secondary education]  
7 **CUSTOM COMPUTER SOFTWARE SERVICES RELATING TO PROCEDURES AND**  
8 **PROGRAMS THAT:**

9 (1) **OTHERWISE ARE TAXABLE UNDER THIS TITLE;**

10 (2) **ARE TO BE USED BY A SPECIFIC PERSON;**

11 (3) (I) **ARE CREATED FOR THAT PERSON; OR**

12 (II) **CONTAIN STANDARD OR PROPRIETARY ROUTINES THAT**  
13 **INCORPORATE SIGNIFICANT CREATIVE INPUT TO CUSTOMIZE THE PROCEDURES**  
14 **AND PROGRAMS FOR THAT PERSON; AND**

15 (4) **DO NOT CONSTITUTE A PROGRAM, PROCEDURE, OR**  
16 **DOCUMENTATION THAT IS MASS PRODUCED AND SOLD TO:**

17 (I) **THE GENERAL PUBLIC; OR**

18 (II) **PERSONS ASSOCIATED IN A TRADE, PROFESSION, OR**  
19 **INDUSTRY.**

20 (c) **THE SALES AND USE TAX DOES NOT APPLY TO THE SALE OF AN**  
21 **OPTIONAL COMPUTER SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT IF THE BUYER**  
22 **DOES NOT HAVE A RIGHT, AS PART OF THE CONTRACT, TO RECEIVE AT NO**  
23 **ADDITIONAL COST SOFTWARE PRODUCTS THAT ARE SEPARATELY PRICED AND**  
24 **MARKETED BY THE VENDOR.**

25 [(c)] (D) The sales and use tax does not apply to the use of a taxable service  
26 obtained by using a prepaid telephone calling arrangement.

27 **Chapter 3 of the Acts of the 2007 Special Session**

28 SECTION 13. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 3 of this Act  
29 shall take effect July 1, 2008. [Section 3 shall remain effective for a period of 5 years  
30 and, at the end of June 30, 2013, with no further action required by the General  
31 Assembly, Section 3 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2    July 1, 2008.