

HOUSE BILL 408

C2

8lr0035

By: **Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Business and Economic Development)**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2008

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Business and Economic Development – Qualified Distressed Counties**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “qualified distressed county” for purposes
4 of the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund and the
5 One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit; and generally relating to the
6 Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund and the One
7 Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit and economic development in
8 qualified distressed counties in the State.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article 83A – Department of Business and Economic Development
11 Section 5–1401(u) and 5–1501(a)(8)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

16 **Article 83A – Department of Business and Economic Development**

17 5–1401.

18 (u) (1) “Qualified distressed county” means a county that has developed in
19 consultation with the municipal corporations located within the county and submitted
20 to the Secretary a local strategic plan for economic development that has been
21 approved by the Secretary and:

22 [(1)] (I) For which the average rate of unemployment for the most
23 recent [18–month] **24–MONTH** period for which data are available exceeds 150% of
24 the average rate of unemployment for the entire State during the same period; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 [(2)] (II) For which the average per capita personal income for the
2 most recent 24-month period for which data are available does not exceed 67% of the
3 average personal per capita income for the entire State during the same period.

4 (2) **“QUALIFIED DISTRESSED COUNTY” INCLUDES A COUNTY**
5 **THAT NO LONGER MEETS EITHER OF THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH**
6 **(1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, BUT HAS DONE SO AT SOME TIME DURING THE**
7 **PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD.**

8 5-1501.

9 (a) (8) (I) “Qualified distressed county” means a county, including
10 Baltimore City, for which:

11 [(i)] 1. The average rate of unemployment for the most recent
12 [18-month] **24-MONTH** period for which data are available is greater than 150% of
13 the average rate of unemployment for the entire State during that same period; or

14 [(ii)] 2. The average per capita personal income for the most
15 recent 24-month period for which data are available is equal to or less than 67% of the
16 average personal per capita income for the entire State during that same period.

17 (II) **“QUALIFIED DISTRESSED COUNTY” INCLUDES A**
18 **COUNTY, INCLUDING BALTIMORE CITY, THAT NO LONGER MEETS EITHER OF**
19 **THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, BUT HAS**
20 **DONE SO AT SOME TIME DURING THE PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD.**

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