

# HOUSE BILL 408

C2

8lr0035

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

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2008

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 27, 2008

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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 certain purposes, including the Maryland Economic Development Assistance  
5 Authority and Fund and the One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit;  
6 providing for the effective date of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the  
7 termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to the  
8 Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund and the One  
9 Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit and economic development in  
10 qualified distressed counties in the State.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article 83A – Department of Business and Economic Development  
13 Section 5–1401(u) and 5–1501(a)(8)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Economic Development  
18 Section 1–101(e)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ (H.B. 1050) of the Acts of the General Assembly of  
21 2008)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

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

4 5–1401.

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

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

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

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

19 5–1501.

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

22 [(i)] 1. The average rate of unemployment for the most recent  
23 [18–month] **24–MONTH** period for which data are available is greater than 150% of  
24 the average rate of unemployment for the entire State during that same period; or

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

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

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland  
33 read as follows:

1 Article – Economic Development

2 1-101.

3 (e) (1) “Qualified distressed county” means a county with:

4 [(1)] (I) an average rate of unemployment for the most recent  
5 [18-month] 24-MONTH period for which data are available that exceeds 150% of the  
6 average rate of unemployment for the State during that period; or

7 [(2)] (II) an average per capita personal income for the most recent  
8 24-month period for which data are available that is equal to or less than 67% of the  
9 average per capita personal income for the State during that period.

10 (2) “QUALIFIED DISTRESSED COUNTY” INCLUDES A COUNTY  
11 THAT:

12 (I) NO LONGER MEETS EITHER CRITERION STATED IN  
13 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; BUT

14 (II) HAS MET AT LEAST ONE OF THE CRITERIA AT SOME  
15 TIME DURING THE PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD.

16 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall  
17 take effect on the taking effect of Chapter \_\_\_\_ (H.B. 1050) of the Acts of the General  
18 Assembly of 2008. If Section 2 of this Act takes effect, Section 1 of this Act shall be  
19 abrogated and of no further force and effect.

20 SECTION ~~2~~ 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the  
21 provisions of Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect July 1, 2008.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.