L4, L2

8lr1721 CF SB 793

By: Harford County Delegation

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2008 Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments House action: Adopted Read second time: March 4, 2008

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

$\mathbf{2}$

Harford County – Special Taxing Districts – Creation

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing Harford County to exercise certain powers concerning 4 the creation of special taxing districts, the levving of certain taxes, and the 5 issuing of certain bonds for developing and financing certain infrastructure 6 improvements under certain circumstances; authorizing Harford County to 7 create a special taxing district only in certain areas; requiring that a local law 8 creating a special taxing district be enacted in a certain manner; authorizing 9 the governing body of Harford County to consider certain elements of a 10 development that would receive the proceeds of a certain bond at a certain public hearing: requiring certain disclosure to buyers of real property within a 11 special taxing district of certain charges for which the buyer would be liable; 12 13 providing that failure to provide certain disclosure makes a contract for the purchase of real property within a special taxing district voidable under certain 14 15circumstances; requiring that adequate debt service reserve funds be 16 maintained by Harford County; providing that Harford County may establish a 17special taxing district only if all the owners of real property within the proposed 18 special taxing district petition the county for the creation of the special taxing 19 district; prohibiting a vendor of certain property within a special taxing district 20 from enforcing a contract for the sale of the property unless the purchaser of the property is provided with certain information relating to the special taxing 2122district and the contract of sale contains a certain notice; providing that a 23vendor may provide a purchaser with certain information by providing the 24purchaser with a certain collection of documents; providing that a vendor may rely on certain documents filed in the land records when providing the 25purchaser with certain information; providing that a purchaser under a contract 26

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	for the sale of certain property within a special taxing district may cancel the
$\frac{1}{2}$	contract within a certain time after receiving certain information; providing
3	that unless the purchaser consents, settlement of a contract for the sale of
4	certain property within a special taxing district may not take place within a
5	certain time after a purchaser receives certain information; requiring a vendor
${6 \over 7}$	<u>to refund certain deposits under certain circumstances; providing that a vendor</u> <u>is liable for certain damages caused by certain false statements or omissions;</u>
8	providing that an action against a vendor for certain false statements or
9	omissions must be brought within a certain time; and generally relating to the
10	authority of Harford County to create special taxing districts for developing and
11	financing infrastructure improvements and to the sale of property located
12	within certain special taxing districts.
13	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14	Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions
15	Section 9–1301(a)
16	Annotated Code of Maryland
17	(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)
18	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19	Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions
20	Section 9–1301(b) and (c)
$\begin{array}{c} 21 \\ 22 \end{array}$	Annotated Code of Maryland (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)
	(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)
23	BY adding to
24	<u>Article – Real Property</u>
25 26	Section 10–706 American de Cada of Mamiland
$\frac{26}{27}$	<u>Annotated Code of Maryland</u> (2003 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)
21	(2005 Replacement volume and 2007 Supplement)
28	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
29	MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
30	Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions
31	9–1301.
32	(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
$\frac{33}{34}$	(2) (i) "Bond" means a special obligation bond, revenue bond, note, or other similar instrument issued by the county in accordance with this section.
35 36	(ii) "Bond" includes a special obligation bond, revenue bond, note, or similar instrument issued by the revenue authority of Prince George's County.
37	(3) "Cost" includes the cost of:

1 Construction, reconstruction, and renovation. and (i) $\mathbf{2}$ acquisition of all lands, structures, real or personal property, rights, rights-of-way, franchises, easements, and interests acquired or to be acquired by the county; 3 4 All machinery and equipment including machinery and (ii) $\mathbf{5}$ equipment needed to expand or enhance county services to the special taxing district; 6 Financing charges and interest prior to and during (iii) $\mathbf{7}$ construction, and, if deemed advisable by the county, for a limited period after 8 completion of the construction, interest and reserves for principal and interest, 9 including costs of municipal bond insurance and any other type of financial guaranty and costs of issuance; 10 11 (iv) Extensions, enlargements, additions, and improvements; 12(**v**) Architectural, engineering, financial, and legal services; 13Plans, specifications, studies, surveys, and estimates of cost (vi) 14and of revenues: 15(vii) Administrative incident expenses to necessary or 16 determining to proceed with the infrastructure improvements; and 17 (viii) Other expenses as may be necessary or incident to the 18 construction, acquisition, and financing of the infrastructure improvements. 19 In Prince George's County, "cost" includes the cost of renovation, (4)20rehabilitation, and repair of existing buildings, internal and external structural systems, elevators, facades, mechanical systems and components, and security 2122systems. 23(b) This section applies only to Anne Arundel County, Calvert County, 24Charles County, Garrett County, HARFORD COUNTY, Howard County, Prince George's County, St. Mary's County, Washington County, and Wicomico County. 2526Subject to the provisions of this section, and for the purpose stated (c) (1)in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the county may: 2728(i) Create a special taxing district; 29(ii) Levy ad valorem or special taxes; and 30 (iii) Issue bonds and other obligations. 31 The purpose of the authority granted under paragraph (1) of this (2)32subsection is to provide financing, refinancing, or reimbursement for the cost of the design, construction, establishment, extension, alteration, or acquisition of adequate 33

storm drainage systems, sewers, water systems, roads, bridges, culverts, tunnels, 1 streets, sidewalks, lighting, parking, parks and recreation facilities, libraries, schools, $\mathbf{2}$ 3 transit facilities, solid waste facilities, and other infrastructure improvements as 4 necessary, whether situated within the special taxing district or outside the special $\mathbf{5}$ taxing district if the infrastructure improvement is reasonably related to other 6 infrastructure improvements within the special taxing district, for the development $\mathbf{7}$ and utilization of the land, each with respect to any defined geographic region within 8 the county.

9 (3) A law enacted by Anne Arundel County under the authority of this 10 section:

(i) Shall specify the types of infrastructure and related costs
 that may be financed;

13

Shall require:

(ii)

14 1. Reasonable disclosure in the real estate contract to 15 buyers of real property within a special taxing district of any special assessment, 16 special tax, or other fee or charge for which the buyer would be liable due to the 17 special taxing district;

18 2. That a seller's failure to provide the disclosure
19 required under subitem 1 of this item renders the contract voidable at the option of the
20 buyer before the date of settlement; and

- 213.That adequate debt service reserve funds be22 maintained;
- 23 (iii) May not allow:
- 241.Acceleration of assessments or taxes by reason of bond25default; or

26 2. An increase in the maximum special assessments, 27 special taxes, or other fees or charges applicable to any individual property in the 28 event that other property owners become delinquent in the payment of a special 29 assessment, special tax, or other fee or charge securing special obligation debt issued 30 under this section; and

31 (iv) May provide:

32 1. For exemptions, deferrals, and credits; and

2. That a lien attaches to property within a special
taxing district to the extent of that property owner's obligation under any special
taxing district financing.

Charles County may exercise the authority granted under this 1 (4) $\mathbf{2}$ section only in commercial or light industrial zones. 3 Prince George's County may exercise the authority granted in this (5)4 subsection to: 5 (i) Levy hotel rental taxes; and 6 (ii) Provide financing, refinancing, or reimbursement for the 7 costs of: 8 1. Convention centers, conference centers, and visitors' 9 centers; 10 2. Maintenance of infrastructure improvements, 11 convention centers, conference centers, and visitors' centers; 12 3. Marketing the special taxing district facilities and 13other improvements; and Renovation, rehabilitation, and repair of existing 14 4. buildings, building systems, and components for existing residential condominiums 15designated as workforce housing as defined in § 4-1801 of the Housing and 16 17 Community Development Article. 18 (6) **(I)** THIS PARAGRAPH APPLIES ONLY TO HARFORD 19 COUNTY. 20**(II)** 1. **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2** 21OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, THE COUNTY MAY EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY 22GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION ONLY IN DESIGNATED GROWTH AREAS AS 23DEFINED IN THE COUNTY MASTER PLAN AND LAND USE ELEMENT PLAN. 242. THE COUNTY MAY NOT EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY 25GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION IN ANY OF THE COUNTY'S RURAL VILLAGES. 26(III) A LAW CREATING A SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT SHALL 27BE ENACTED BY A BILL ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY. 28(IV) AT THE PUBLIC HEARING ON A BILL CREATING A 29 SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT, THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY MAY CONSIDER, 30 AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS OF A PROPOSED 31DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD RECEIVE THE PROCEEDS OF A PROPOSED BOND 32**UNDER THIS SECTION:**

33

1. **DEVELOPMENT DESIGN STANDARDS;**

1 2. THE USE OF TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS $\mathbf{2}$ OR OTHER METHODS OF ACHIEVING DENSITY OF DEVELOPMENT; 3 3. **DESIGN AND USAGE OF OPEN SPACE; AND** 4 4. AVAILABILITY AND DESIGN OF RECREATIONAL 5AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES. 6 **(V)** A LAW ENACTED BY THE COUNTY CREATING A SPECIAL 7 TAXING DISTRICT SHALL REQUIRE: 8 1 **REASONABLE DISCLOSURE IN THE REAL ESTATE** 9 CONTRACT TO BUYERS OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN A SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT 10 OF ANY SPECIAL ASSESSMENT, SPECIAL TAX, OR OTHER FEE OR CHARGE FOR 11 WHICH THE BUYER WOULD BE LIABLE DUE TO THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT: 12 2 THAT A SELLER'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE 13 DISCLOSURE REQUIRED UNDER ITEM 1 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH RENDERS THE 14 CONTRACT VOIDABLE AT THE OPTION OF THE BUYER BEFORE THE DATE OF 15SETTLEMENT: AND 16 3-THAT REQUIRE THAT ADEQUATE DEBT SERVICE 17 **RESERVE FUNDS BE MAINTAINED.** 18 (VI) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, 19 BEFORE THE COUNTY MAY ESTABLISH A SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT, ALL OF THE 20**OWNERS OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE PROPOSED SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT** 21MUST PETITION THE COUNTY FOR THE CREATION OF THE SPECIAL TAXING 22DISTRICT. 23**Article – Real Property 10–70<u>6.</u>** 2425(1) (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE SALE OF RESIDENTIAL 26**REAL PROPERTY IN HARFORD COUNTY.** 27THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO: (2) 28**(I)** A SALE OF PROPERTY TO A PURCHASER WHO DOES NOT 29 INTEND TO OCCUPY THE PROPERTY; OR 30 **(II)** A SALE IN AN ACTION TO FORECLOSE A MORTGAGE, 31DEED OF TRUST, OR OTHER LIEN.

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1	(B) THE VENDOR OF PROPERTY THAT IS SUBJECT TO A TAX OF A
2	SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT AS AUTHORIZED IN ARTICLE 24, § 9-1301(C) OF THE
3	CODE MAY NOT ENFORCE A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY
4	UNLESS:
5	(1) THE PURCHASER OF THE PROPERTY IS PROVIDED WITH THE
6	FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN WRITING:
7	(I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA INCLUDED WITHIN THE
8	SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT;
9	(II) THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF BONDS AND OTHER
10	OBLIGATIONS TO BE ISSUED WITH RESPECT TO THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT;
11	(III) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE
12	SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT WAS CREATED, AND FOR WHICH THE BONDS OR
13	OTHER OBLIGATIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF ANY
14	IMPROVEMENTS;
15	(IV) THE AMOUNT OF SPECIAL TAXES LEVIED ON THE
16	PROPERTY FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR OR, IF TAXES WERE NOT LEVIED ON
17	THE PROPERTY FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR, A GOOD-FAITH ESTIMATE OF THE
18	ANNUAL TAX THAT WILL BE LEVIED ON THE PROPERTY;
19	(V) THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SPECIAL TAXES THAT MAY
20	BE LEVIED ON THE PROPERTY IN A YEAR;
21	(VI) THE PROJECTED TIME PERIOD OVER WHICH ANY BONDS
22	OR OBLIGATIONS ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT
23	ARE TO BE REPAID; AND
24	(VII) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PURCHASER'S RIGHT TO FULLY
25	PREPAY THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS; AND
26	(2) THE CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY CONTAINS
27	A NOTICE, WRITTEN IN CONSPICUOUS, BOLD, AND UNDERSCORED TYPE, THAT IS
28	SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THE FOLLOWING:
29	"NOTICE REQUIRED BY MARYLAND LAW
30	THE PROPERTY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS CONTRACT IS LOCATED
31	WITHIN A SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT, WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED FOR THE
32	PURPOSE OF FINANCING OR REFINANCING THE COSTS RELATED TO CERTAIN
33	INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE TAXING DISTRICT. THESE

1COSTS WILL BE REPAID FROM THE PROCEEDS OF SPECIAL TAXES COLLECTED2FROM THE OWNERS OF PROPERTIES LOCATED WITHIN THE SPECIAL TAXING3DISTRICT.

4 STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT THE SELLER DISCLOSE TO YOU, AT OR $\mathbf{5}$ BEFORE THE TIME YOU ENTER INTO THIS CONTRACT, THE FOLLOWING 6 INFORMATION: (1) A DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA INCLUDED WITHIN THE 7 SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT, (2) THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF BONDS AND OTHER 8 OBLIGATIONS TO BE ISSUED WITH RESPECT TO THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT, 9 (3) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE SPECIAL TAXING 10 DISTRICT WAS CREATED, AND FOR WHICH THE BONDS OR OTHER OBLIGATIONS 11 HAVE BEEN ISSUED, INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF ANY INFRASTRUCTURE 12IMPROVEMENTS, (4) THE AMOUNT OF SPECIAL TAXES LEVIED ON THE 13 PROPERTY FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR OR, IF TAXES WERE NOT LEVIED ON 14 THE PROPERTY FOR THE MOST RECENT YEAR, A GOOD-FAITH ESTIMATE OF THE 15ANNUAL TAX THAT WILL BE LEVIED ON THE PROPERTY, (5) THE MAXIMUM 16 AMOUNT OF SPECIAL TAXES THAT MAY BE LEVIED ON THE PROPERTY IN A YEAR, 17(6) THE PROJECTED TIME PERIOD OVER WHICH ANY BONDS OR OBLIGATIONS 18 ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT ARE TO BE 19 REPAID, AND (7) YOUR RIGHT AS THE PROSPECTIVE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY 20TO FULLY PREPAY THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT 21TO THE PROPERTY.

You have 7 calendar days from the date you receive the above
 INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT TO CANCEL THIS
 CONTRACT BY SENDING A WRITTEN NOTICE OF CANCELLATION TO THE SELLER.
 You are not required to state a reason for cancelling the contract.
 UPON CANCELLATION OF THE CONTRACT, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A REFUND OF
 ANY DEPOSIT YOU MAY HAVE MADE UNDER THIS CONTRACT.

A SELLER MAY NOT REQUIRE THAT YOU WAIVE YOUR RIGHT TO RECEIVE
 THE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT OR YOUR
 RIGHT TO CANCEL THE CONTRACT WITHIN 7 CALENDAR DAYS OF RECEIPT OF
 THE INFORMATION. A SELLER MAY NOT REQUIRE THAT YOU CLOSE THE SALE
 UNDER THIS CONTRACT WITHIN 7 CALENDAR DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU
 RECEIVE THE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT.

34STATE LAW PROVIDES THAT ANY SELLER WHO, IN DISCLOSING THE35INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT, MAKES ANY FALSE36STATEMENT OF A MATERIAL FACT OR OMITS A MATERIAL FACT THAT, IN LIGHT37OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE STATEMENTS WERE MADE, IS38NECESSARY TO MAKE THE STATEMENTS NOT MISLEADING IS LIABLE TO THE39PURCHASER FOR DAMAGES PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY THE SELLER'S FALSE OR40OMITTED STATEMENT. ANY ACTION FOR DAMAGES CAUSED BY THE SELLER'S

$rac{1}{2}$	FALSE STATEMENT OR OMISSION OF A MATERIAL FACT MUST BE BROUGHT WITHIN 1 YEAR FROM THE DATE OF CLOSING UNDER THIS CONTRACT.
	WITHIN I TEAR FROM THE DATE OF CLOSING UNDER THIS CONTRACT.
3	YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY REVIEW THE INFORMATION RELATING TO THE
4	SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT PROVIDED BY THE SELLER TO FAMILIARIZE
5	YOURSELF WITH YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS AS A PROSPECTIVE OWNER OF
6	PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT."
7	(C) (1) THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION
8	SHALL BE DEEMED FULFILLED IF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE
9	PROVIDED TO THE PURCHASER IS PROVIDED TO THE PURCHASER IN WRITING,
10	IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER.
11	(2) A VENDOR MAY PROVIDE THE PURCHASER WITH THE
12	INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION BY
13	PROVIDING THE PURCHASER WITH A COLLECTION OF DOCUMENTS IF THE
14	DOCUMENTS CONVEY THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION $(B)(1)$
15	OF THIS SECTION IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER.
10	
16 17	(3) IN SATISFYING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF
$\frac{17}{18}$	THIS SECTION, THE VENDOR MAY RELY ON ANY DOCUMENT THAT, IN
18 19	CONNECTION WITH THE CREATION OF THE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT, WAS FILED BY THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY IN THE LAND RECORDS OF THE
$\frac{10}{20}$	COUNTY IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED.
20	COUNTERN WHICH THE FROMERIT IS LOCATED.
21	(D) (1) A PURCHASER UNDER A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF
22	PROPERTY THAT IS SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY CANCEL THE CONTRACT
23	WITHIN 7 CALENDAR DAYS OF RECEIVING THE INFORMATION UNDER
24	SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION BY DELIVERING WRITTEN NOTICE OF
25	CANCELLATION TO THE VENDOR.
26	(2) UNLESS THE PURCHASER CONSENTS TO AN EARLIER
27	SETTLEMENT DATE, THE SETTLEMENT OF A CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF
28	PROPERTY THAT IS SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION MAY NOT TAKE PLACE WITHIN 7
29	CALENDAR DAYS FROM THE DATE THE PURCHASER RECEIVES THE
30	INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION.
31	(3) NOTICE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL
32	BE DELIVERED BY:
33	(I) HAND-DELIVERY; OR
6 4	
34	(II) FIRST-CLASS MAIL.

1	(4) ON CANCELLATION OF A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF
2	PROPERTY UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE VENDOR SHALL
3	REFUND TO THE PURCHASER ANY DEPOSITS PAID BY, OR ON BEHALF OF, THE
4	PURCHASER UNDER THE CANCELLED CONTRACT.
5	(E) (1) ANY VENDOR THAT, IN PROVIDING THE PURCHASER WITH THE
6	INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION, MAKES
7	ANY FALSE STATEMENT OF A MATERIAL FACT OR OMITS A MATERIAL FACT
8	THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE STATEMENTS
9	WERE MADE, IS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE STATEMENTS NOT MISLEADING IS
10	LIABLE TO THE PURCHASER FOR DAMAGES PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY THE
11	VENDOR'S FALSE OR OMITTED STATEMENT.

12(2)AN ACTION BROUGHT UNDER PARAGRAPH(1)OF THIS13SUBSECTION MUST BE BROUGHT WITHIN 1 YEAR FROM THE DATE OF14SETTLEMENT OF THE CONTRACT OF SALE.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect16 June 1, 2008.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.