

CHAPTER 498

(House Bill 408)

AN ACT concerning

Business and Economic Development – Qualified Distressed Counties

FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “qualified distressed county” for ~~purposes~~ of certain purposes, including the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund and the One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit; providing for the effective date of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund and the One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit and economic development in qualified distressed counties in the State.

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Economic Development
Section 1–101(e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(As enacted by Chapter 306 (H.B. 1050) of the Acts of the General Assembly of
2008)

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

Article 83A – Department of Business and Economic Development

5–1401.

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

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

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

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

5-1501.

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

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

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

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

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

Article – Economic Development

1-101.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2008.