

## Chapter 303

(Senate Bill 891)

AN ACT concerning

### **Economic Development – Qualified Distressed Counties**

FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “qualified distressed county” for certain purposes, including the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund, the Linked Deposit Program, the One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit, and the College Readiness Outreach Program; and generally relating to the definition of “qualified distressed county” for certain economic development purposes in the State.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Economic Development  
Section 1–101(a) and (b)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Volume and 2010 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Economic Development  
Section 1–101(e)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

### **Article – Economic Development**

1–101.

- (a) In this division the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) “County” means a county of the State or Baltimore City.
- (e) (1) “Qualified distressed county” means a county with:

- (i) an average rate of unemployment for the most recent 24-month period for which data are available that exceeds 150% of the average rate of unemployment for the State during that period; or

(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] **24-MONTH** period.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2011.

**Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2011.**