

# SENATE BILL 227

Q2  
SB 923/15 – B&T

6lr2307  
CF 6lr2300

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By: **Washington County Senators**  
Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2016  
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County – Property Tax Credit – Disabled Veterans**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the governing body of Washington County to grant, by law,  
4 a property tax credit against the county property tax imposed on certain residential  
5 property owned by certain disabled veterans of active military, naval, or air service;  
6 providing for the amount of the property tax credit; requiring certain disabled  
7 veterans or surviving spouses of disabled veterans to provide certain documents  
8 when applying for the property tax credit under this Act; prohibiting the inspection  
9 of a certain certificate of disability by certain individuals; authorizing the governing  
10 body of Washington County to provide, by law, for the duration of the credit and  
11 regulations, procedures, and any other provision necessary to carry out the tax  
12 credit; defining certain terms; providing for the application of this Act; and generally  
13 relating to a property tax credit for certain residential property in Washington  
14 County.

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – Tax – Property  
17 Section 9–323(g)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Tax – Property**

23 9–323.

24 **(G) (1) (I) IN THIS SUBSECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**  
25 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (II) 1. "DISABLED VETERAN" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

2 A. IS HONORABLY DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER  
3 HONORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES FROM ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, OR AIR SERVICE AS  
4 DEFINED IN 38 U.S.C. § 101; AND

5 B. HAS BEEN DECLARED BY THE VETERANS'  
6 ADMINISTRATION TO HAVE A PERMANENT SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY OF AT  
7 LEAST 50% THAT RESULTS FROM BLINDNESS OR OTHER DISABLING CAUSE THAT:

8 I. IS REASONABLY CERTAIN TO CONTINUE FOR THE LIFE  
9 OF THE VETERAN; AND

10 II. WAS NOT CAUSED OR INCURRED BY MISCONDUCT OF  
11 THE VETERAN.

12 2. "DISABLED VETERAN" INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL  
13 WHO QUALIFIES POSTHUMOUSLY FOR A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY OF AT  
14 LEAST 50%.

15 (III) "DWELLING HOUSE":

16 1. MEANS REAL PROPERTY THAT IS:

17 A. THE LEGAL RESIDENCE OF A DISABLED VETERAN OR  
18 A SURVIVING SPOUSE; AND

19 B. OCCUPIED BY NOT MORE THAN TWO FAMILIES; AND

20 2. INCLUDES THE LOT OR CURTILAGE AND STRUCTURES  
21 NECESSARY TO USE THE REAL PROPERTY AS A RESIDENCE.

22 (IV) "SURVIVING SPOUSE" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS NOT  
23 REMARRIED AND WHO IS THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A DISABLED VETERAN.

24 (2) THE GOVERNING BODY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY MAY GRANT, BY  
25 LAW, A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION AGAINST THE COUNTY  
26 PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON A DWELLING HOUSE IF:

27 (I) THE DWELLING HOUSE IS OWNED BY:

28 1. A DISABLED VETERAN; OR

1                   **2.     A SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A DISABLED VETERAN, IF:**

2                   **A.     THE DWELLING HOUSE WAS OWNED BY THE DISABLED**  
3 **VETERAN AT THE TIME OF THE DISABLED VETERAN’S DEATH; AND**

4                   **B.     THE SURVIVING SPOUSE MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS**  
5 **OF PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

6                   **(II)   THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (5) OF**  
7 **THIS SUBSECTION ARE MET.**

8                   **(3)   THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT GRANTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION**  
9 **SHALL EQUAL A PERCENTAGE OF THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON THE**  
10 **DWELLING HOUSE THAT IS EQUAL TO THE PERCENTAGE OF THE DISABLED**  
11 **VETERAN’S SERVICE–CONNECTED DISABILITY RATING.**

12                   **(4)   AFTER A DISABLED VETERAN DIES, THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF**  
13 **THE DISABLED VETERAN MAY RECEIVE A DISABLED VETERAN’S PROPERTY TAX**  
14 **CREDIT FOR THE DWELLING HOUSE THAT WAS FORMERLY OWNED BY THE DISABLED**  
15 **VETERAN IF:**

16                   **(I)   THE DWELLING HOUSE RECEIVED A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT**  
17 **UNDER THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

18                   **(II)   THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OWNS AND RESIDES IN THE**  
19 **DWELLING HOUSE.**

20                   **(5)   (I)   A DISABLED VETERAN OR A SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A**  
21 **DISABLED VETERAN SHALL APPLY FOR THE PROPERTY TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS**  
22 **SUBSECTION BY PROVIDING TO THE SUPERVISOR:**

23                   **1.    A COPY OF THE DISABLED VETERAN’S DISCHARGE**  
24 **CERTIFICATE FROM ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, OR AIR SERVICE; AND**

25                   **2.    ON THE FORM PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY, A**  
26 **CERTIFICATION OF THE DISABLED VETERAN’S DISABILITY FROM THE VETERANS’**  
27 **ADMINISTRATION.**

28                   **(II)   THE DISABLED VETERAN’S CERTIFICATE OF DISABILITY**  
29 **MAY NOT BE INSPECTED BY INDIVIDUALS OTHER THAN:**

30                   **1.    THE DISABLED VETERAN; OR**

