

Chapter 632

(House Bill 621)

AN ACT concerning

County Tax Fairness Act

FOR the purpose of altering the manner by which the Comptroller withholds from certain income tax distributions certain amounts that a local government owes to the Local Reserve Account for its share of certain income tax refunds and interest that are paid from the Account related to a certain decision of the U.S. Supreme Court; and generally relating to required repayments to the Local Reserve Account.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Chapter 489 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2015, as amended by Chapter 24 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2016 and Chapter 824 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2018

Section 27

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

Chapter 489 of the Acts of 2015, as amended by Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2016 and Chapter 824 of the Acts of 2018

SECTION 27. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Attorney General shall review the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the appeal of Maryland State Comptroller of the Treasury v. Brian Wynne, et ux. 431 Md. 147 (2013) and advise the Comptroller whether the decision, expressly or in effect, requires the payment of income tax refunds and interest attributable to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005, but before January 1, 2015, and, if the Attorney General so advises, the Comptroller shall initially pay the refunds and interest from the Local Reserve Account (Account) established to comply with § 2–606 of the Tax – General Article. After the Comptroller pays the refunds and interest from the Account, each local government shall reimburse the Account for its share of related refunds and interest. If an affected local government does not reimburse the Account in a timely fashion, the Comptroller shall withhold the amount owed to the Account from the quarterly income tax distributions in [twenty] **EIGHTY** equal installments, beginning with the first applicable quarterly distribution made after February 2021, until the Account is fully reimbursed.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.