

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 662  
Ways and Means

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**Anne Arundel County - Property Tax Credit for Business Entities - State of Emergency**

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This bill authorizes Anne Arundel County to grant a property tax credit for real property owned or leased by a business affected by a specified declared state of emergency. Anne Arundel County may provide, by law, for (1) the amount and duration of the property tax credit; (2) additional eligibility criteria for the property tax credit; (3) regulations and procedures for the application and uniform processing of requests for the property tax credit; and (4) any other provision necessary to carry out the property tax credit. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2021, and applies to taxable years beginning after June 30, 2021.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Anne Arundel County property tax revenues decrease in any year in which there is a declared state of emergency, to the extent the property tax credit is granted. The amount of the decrease depends on the number of businesses receiving the property tax credit and the amount of the property tax credit. County expenditures are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential meaningful. Small businesses receiving a property tax credit will benefit from a reduced property tax liability.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Under the Tax – Property Article, all local governments are subject to statewide mandatory tax credit programs and are authorized to grant tax credits for certain types of property. They also are subject to mandatory and optional tax credits specific to

individual counties and municipalities. The authority to grant local tax credits must be provided for in State law. A comprehensive overview on property tax credits in Maryland can be found in Chapter 2 of the [\*Guide to the Property Tax Structure in Maryland\*](#).

The Governor declared a public health emergency on March 5, 2020, with the declaration being extended several times since. The public health emergency is still in effect and the most recent renewal occurred on December 23, 2020.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** The bill authorizes Anne Arundel County to provide a property tax credit to businesses that are affected by a declared state of emergency. As a result, Anne Arundel County property tax revenues may decrease in any year in which a state of emergency is declared, to the extent the property tax credit is granted. The amount of the decrease depends on the number of businesses receiving the property tax credit and the amount of the property tax credit.

Anne Arundel County advises that approximately 40% of real property tax revenues come from commercial properties. **Exhibit 1** shows the number of improved nonresidential properties and the corresponding assessed value.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Nonresidential Properties in Anne Arundel County**  
**Fiscal 2021**

<b><u>Use Category</u></b>	<b><u>Improved Properties</u></b>	<b><u>Assessed Value</u></b>
Agricultural	1,042	\$561,442,633
Country Club	7	19,859,533
Residential	162,959	65,680,334,690
Commercial	4,014	12,541,073,574
Industrial	480	3,422,051,176
Commercial Condominiums	1,701	738,442,901
Apartments	208	4,100,490,535
Commercial Residential	1,079	443,995,161
<b>Total</b>	<b>171,490</b>	<b>\$87,507,690,203</b>

Source: State Department of Assessments and Taxation

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 261 (Senator Simonaire) - Budget and Taxation.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel County; State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 1, 2021  
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Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510