

# HOUSE BILL 454

Q7

4lr1795  
CF SB 679

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By: **The Speaker (By Request – Office of the Comptroller)**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Disclosure of Tax Information – Tax Compliance Activity and Binding Data Use**  
3 **Agreements**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “tax information” for purposes of provisions of  
5 law governing the confidentiality and disclosure of tax information; authorizing,  
6 subject to certain limitations, the disclosure of certain tax information to certain  
7 ~~persons~~ tax compliance organizations and governmental entities for the purpose of  
8 assisting the Comptroller in certain tax compliance activity; requiring the  
9 Comptroller, when disclosing tax information in accordance with certain provisions  
10 of law, to require the ~~party~~ person or governmental entity to whom the information  
11 is to be disclosed to enter into a certain ~~data-use~~ agreement; requiring the  
12 Comptroller, when disclosing tax information in accordance with certain provisions  
13 of law, to supervise the recipient of the tax information in a certain manner;  
14 prohibiting an officer, employee, former officer, or former employee of a certain  
15 person from disclosing the tax information except under certain circumstances; and  
16 generally relating to the disclosure of tax information by the Maryland Comptroller.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article – Tax – General

19 Section ~~13-203(e)~~ 13-101, 13-201, 13-203(c), and 13-1018

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

22 BY adding to

23 Article – Tax – General

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Section 13–203(f) ~~and (g)~~ and 13–208  
2 Annotated Code of Maryland  
3 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

6 **Article – Tax – General**

7 13–101.

8 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

9 (b) (1) “Demand response trip” means the carriage of a passenger who is  
10 unable to use regular schedule, fixed termini services.

11 (2) “Demand response trip” includes a trip that is required under the  
12 federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

13 (c) **“GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY” MEANS:**

14 **(1) A GOVERNMENTAL UNIT; AND**

15 **(2) AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF:**

16 **(I) ONE OR MORE STATES;**

17 **(II) ONE OR MORE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF A STATE; OR**

18 **(III) ONE OR MORE STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF**  
19 **STATES.**

20 **[(c)] (D)** “Governmental unit” means:

21 (1) this State or a political subdivision, unit, or instrumentality of this  
22 State;

23 (2) another state or a political subdivision, unit, or instrumentality of that  
24 state; and

25 (3) a unit or instrumentality of a political subdivision of this State or of  
26 another state.

27 **[(d)] (E)** (1) “Tax collector” means the person or governmental unit  
28 responsible for collecting a tax.

1           (2)    “Tax collector” includes:

2                   (i)    the Comptroller;

3                   (ii) the Department, with respect to:

4                           1.    the financial institution franchise tax; and

5                           2.    the public service company franchise tax; and

6                   (iii) the registers of wills, with respect to the inheritance tax.

7           **(F) “TAX COMPLIANCE ACTIVITY” MEANS ANY ACTIVITY THAT SUPPORTS**  
 8 **THE COMPTROLLER IN ADMINISTERING THE LAWS DESCRIBED IN § 2-102 OF THIS**  
 9 **ARTICLE.**

10          **(G) “TAX COMPLIANCE ORGANIZATION” MEANS AN ORGANIZATION:**

11                   **(1) A PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO ASSIST STATE TAX OFFICIALS IN**  
 12 **ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH AND ENFORCING STATE AND FEDERAL TAX LAWS;**

13                   **(2) THE MEMBERSHIP OF WHICH CONSISTS SOLELY OF:**

14                           **(I) STATES; OR**

15                           **(II) STATE TAX COLLECTORS, COMPTROLLERS, OR DIRECTORS**  
 16 **OF REVENUE AND THEIR EMPLOYEES; AND**

17                   **(3) OF WHICH THE STATE IS A MEMBER OR PARTICIPANT.**

18    13-201.

19           In this subtitle, “tax information” means:

20                   **(1) ANY TAX RETURN, INFORMATION RETURN, DECLARATION OF**  
 21 **ESTIMATED TAX, EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE A RETURN, OR CLAIM FOR REFUND**  
 22 **UNDER THIS ARTICLE THAT IS FILED WITH THE TAX COLLECTOR BY, ON BEHALF OF,**  
 23 **OR WITH RESPECT TO ANY PERSON AND ANY AMENDMENT OR SUPPLEMENT**  
 24 **THERE TO, INCLUDING SUPPORTING SCHEDULES, ATTACHMENTS, OR LISTS THAT**  
 25 **ARE SUPPLEMENTAL TO OR A PART OF THE RETURN;**

26                   **[(1)] (2) the amount of income or any other particulars disclosed in a tax**  
 27 **return required under this article, if the return contains return information, as defined in**  
 28 **§ 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code;**

1            ~~[(2)] (3)~~    any RETURN OR return information, as defined in § 6103 of the  
 2 Internal Revenue Code, required to be attached to or included in a tax return required  
 3 under this article; or

4            ~~[(3)] (4)~~    any information contained in:

5                    (i)    an admissions and amusement tax return;

6                    (ii)   an alcoholic beverage tax return;

7                    (iii)   a bay restoration fee return;

8                    (iv)   a boxing and wrestling tax return;

9                    (V)    A DIGITAL ADVERTISING GROSS REVENUES TAX RETURN;

10                  ~~[(v)] (VI)~~    an E-9-1-1 fee return;

11                  ~~[(vi)] (VII)~~   a financial institution franchise tax return;

12                  ~~[(vii)] (VIII)~~ an inheritance tax return;

13                  ~~[(viii)] (IX)~~   a Maryland estate tax return;

14                  ~~[(ix)] (X)~~     a motor carrier tax return;

15                  ~~[(x)] (XI)~~     a motor fuel tax return;

16                  ~~[(xi)] (XII)~~    an other tobacco products tax return;

17                  ~~[(xii)] (XIII)~~ a public service company franchise tax return;

18                  ~~[(xiii)] (XIV)~~ a sales and use tax return;

19                  ~~[(xiv)] (XV)~~   a savings and loan association franchise tax return;

20                  ~~[(xv)] (XVI)~~   a tire recycling fee return;

21                  ~~[(xvi)] (XVII)~~      a tobacco tax return; or

22                  ~~[(xvii)] (XVIII)~~    a transportation services assessment return.

1 (c) [Tax] ~~SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (F)~~ SUBSECTIONS (F) AND (G) OF THIS  
2 SECTION, TAX information may be disclosed to:

3 (1) an employee or officer of the State who, by reason of that employment  
4 or office, has the right to the tax information;

5 (2) another tax collector;

6 (3) the Maryland Tax Court;

7 (4) a legal representative of the State, to review the tax information about  
8 a taxpayer:

9 (i) who applies for review under this title;

10 (ii) who appeals from a determination under this title; or

11 (iii) against whom an action to recover tax or a penalty is pending or  
12 will be initiated under this title;

13 (5) any license issuing authority of the State required by State law to verify  
14 through the Comptroller that an applicant has paid all undisputed taxes and  
15 unemployment insurance contributions payable to the Comptroller or the Secretary of  
16 Labor or that the applicant has provided for payment in a manner satisfactory to the unit  
17 responsible for collection;

18 (6) a local official as defined in § 13–925 of this title to the extent necessary  
19 to administer Subtitle 9, Part V of this title;

20 (7) a federal official as defined in § 13–930 of this title to the extent  
21 necessary to administer Subtitle 9, Part VI of this title;

22 (8) the Maryland Department of Health in accordance with the federal  
23 Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009;

24 (9) the State Board of Individual Tax Preparers;

25 (10) the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission;

26 (11) the Maryland 9–1–1 Board;

27 (12) a person or governmental entity authorized by the Comptroller in  
28 writing to receive tax information for the purpose of identifying, preventing, or responding  
29 to fraud, provided that the tax information is:

30 (i) anonymized to the extent possible consistent with the  
31 information’s intended use; and

1 (ii) in addition to any other protections and safeguards under law,  
 2 subject to any protections and safeguards set forth by the Comptroller in the written  
 3 authorization;

4 (13) the Maryland Higher Education Commission;

5 (14) a hospital, the Health Services Cost Review Commission, the  
 6 Department of Human Services, the Maryland Department of Health, and the State  
 7 Department of Education, to the extent necessary to administer § 19–214.4 of the Health –  
 8 General Article; [and]

9 (15) subject to subsection (e) of this section, the Maryland Small Business  
 10 Retirement Savings Board and its authorized contractors for the purpose of administering  
 11 the Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Program and Trust as authorized under  
 12 Title 12 of the Labor and Employment Article; AND

13 (16) ~~A PERSON OR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY~~ A PERSON,  
 14 GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, OR TAX COMPLIANCE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE  
 15 OF ASSISTING THE COMPTROLLER IN TAX COMPLIANCE ACTIVITY.

16 (F) ~~WHEN~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION,  
 17 BEFORE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL TAX INFORMATION UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF  
 18 THIS SECTION, THE COMPTROLLER SHALL MAY, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, REQUIRE  
 19 THE PARTY PERSON OR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY TO WHOM THE INFORMATION IS TO  
 20 BE DISCLOSED TO ENTER INTO A BINDING, WRITTEN DATA-USE AGREEMENT  
 21 REGARDING THE USE AND SECURITY OF THE TAX INFORMATION, THE TERMS OF  
 22 WHICH SHALL BE PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPTROLLER ACCORDING TO THE  
 23 COMPTROLLER'S DATA SECURITY POLICIES AND BE CONSISTENT WITH STATE AND  
 24 FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS.

25 (G) (1) BEFORE DISCLOSING TAX INFORMATION UNDER SUBSECTION  
 26 (C)(9), (12), (14), (15), OR (16) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMPTROLLER SHALL  
 27 REQUIRE THE PARTY TO WHOM THE TAX INFORMATION IS TO BE DISCLOSED TO  
 28 ENTER INTO A BINDING, WRITTEN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE USE AND SECURITY  
 29 OF THE TAX INFORMATION, THE TERMS OF WHICH SHALL BE:

30 (I) PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPTROLLER ACCORDING TO THE  
 31 COMPTROLLER'S DATA SECURITY POLICIES;

32 (II) CONSISTENT WITH STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS,  
 33 INCLUDING § 6103(A) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE; AND

1                   **(III) IN COMPLIANCE WITH § 6103(B)(5)(B)(III) OF THE**  
2 **INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, BY SUBSTITUTING “COMPTROLLER” FOR**  
3 **“SECRETARY”.**

4                   **(2) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ADEQUATELY SUPERVISE THE**  
5 **RECIPIENT OF THE TAX INFORMATION UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(9), (12), (14), (15),**  
6 **OR (16) OF THIS SECTION AT ALL TIMES.**

7 **13-208.**

8                   **AN OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, FORMER OFFICER, OR FORMER EMPLOYEE OF A**  
9 **PERSON, GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, OR TAX COMPLIANCE ORGANIZATION TO WHICH**  
10 **TAX INFORMATION HAS BEEN DISCLOSED UNDER § 13-203(C)(16) OF THIS SUBTITLE**  
11 **MAY NOT DISCLOSE, IN ANY MANNER, ANY TAX INFORMATION OBTAINED IN**  
12 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE DATA USE AGREEMENT, UNLESS THE DISCLOSURE IS:**

13                   **(1) AUTHORIZED EXPRESSLY BY A LAW OF THIS STATE OR THE**  
14 **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT;**

15                   **(2) AUTHORIZED BY THE DATA USE AGREEMENT; OR**

16                   **(3) REQUIRED BY A COURT ORDER.**

17 **13-1018.**

18                   **An officer, employee, former officer, or former employee of the State [or of], a political**  
19 **subdivision of the State, OR A PERSON, GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, OR TAX COMPLIANCE**  
20 **ORGANIZATION TO WHICH TAX INFORMATION HAS BEEN DISCLOSED IN**  
21 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 13-203 OF THIS TITLE who makes a disclosure in violation of**  
22 **Subtitle 2 of this title is guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, is subject to a fine not**  
23 **exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or both.**

24                   **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**  
25 **1, 2024.**