

# HOUSE BILL 791

Q2, L2

5lr2150  
CF 5lr3201

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By: **Delegates Otto, Beauchamp, and Hartman**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Somerset County – Property Tax – Emergency Services Tax**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the County Commissioners of Somerset County to impose  
4 an emergency services tax on all property subject to the county property tax to pay  
5 costs of emergency services; prohibiting the county commissioners from initially  
6 imposing or subsequently increasing an emergency services tax until after a public  
7 hearing is held; and generally relating to an emergency services tax in Somerset  
8 County.

9 BY adding to

10 The Public Local Laws of Somerset County  
11 Section 7–401 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 4. Emergency Services Tax”  
12 Article 20 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
13 (2015 edition, as amended)

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

16 **Article 20 – Somerset County**

17 **SUBTITLE 4. EMERGENCY SERVICES TAX.**

18 **7–401.**

19 **(A) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY IMPOSE, BY LAW, AN ANNUAL**  
20 **PROPERTY TAX ON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX TO PAY**  
21 **ALL OR PART OF THE COSTS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN THE COUNTY, INCLUDING**  
22 **FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) (1) THE EMERGENCY SERVICES TAX SHALL BE COLLECTED IN THE**  
2 **SAME MANNER AS OTHER COUNTY TAXES ARE COLLECTED.**

3           **(2) IF A PROPERTY OWNER FAILS TO PAY THE EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
4 **TAX WHEN DUE AND PAYABLE, THE UNPAID TAX SHALL:**

5                   **(I) BE A LIEN ON ALL PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE PERSON**  
6 **REQUIRED TO MAKE PAYMENT; AND**

7                   **(II) ACCRUE INTEREST AND PENALTIES AT THE SAME RATE AND**  
8 **IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ACCRUAL OF INTEREST AND PENALTIES FOR UNPAID**  
9 **COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES.**

10           **(3) PROPERTY MAY BE SOLD IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 14,**  
11 **SUBTITLE 8 OF THE TAX – PROPERTY ARTICLE TO ENFORCE THE EMERGENCY**  
12 **SERVICES TAX.**

13           **(C) (1) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY NOT ENACT A LAW TO**  
14 **INITIALLY IMPOSE OR SUBSEQUENTLY INCREASE AN EMERGENCY SERVICES TAX**  
15 **UNTIL AFTER A PUBLIC HEARING IS HELD ON THE PROPOSED LAW AT THE SAME**  
16 **TIME AS THE COUNTY’S ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING.**

17           **(2) THE COUNTY SHALL PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH ADVANCE**  
18 **NOTICE OF THE HEARING REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

19           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
20 1, 2025, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2025.