

SENATE BILL 330

Q1
SB 25/24 – B&T

5lr2508

By: **Senator Jackson**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2025

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Property Tax Credit – Disabled or Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue**
3 **Worker – Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of altering, for purposes of a certain property tax credit for a certain
5 dwelling, the definition of “fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker” to include
6 disabled law enforcement officers or rescue workers who have died regardless of the
7 cause of death; repealing a certain requirement that, for purposes of eligibility for
8 the credit, the dwelling must have been acquired by the disabled or fallen law
9 enforcement officer or rescue worker or the surviving spouse or cohabitant within a
10 certain number of years after a certain finding; requiring the amount of the credit
11 for a newly acquired dwelling owned by a disabled or fallen law enforcement officer
12 or rescue worker or the surviving spouse or cohabitant to be in the same proportion
13 as the property tax credit for a certain former dwelling; authorizing, under certain
14 circumstances, the amount of the credit for a dwelling owned by a disabled or fallen
15 law enforcement officer or rescue worker or the surviving spouse or cohabitant to be
16 in the same proportion as the property tax credit initially granted for the dwelling;
17 authorizing a county or municipal corporation, notwithstanding certain provisions
18 of this Act, to enact a law limiting eligibility for the tax credit to certain individuals
19 or to limit the number of years a dwelling must be acquired after certain events in
20 order to qualify for the tax credit; and generally relating to a property tax credit for
21 a dwelling owned by a disabled or fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker or
22 the surviving spouse or cohabitant.

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
24 Article – Tax – Property
25 Section 9–210
26 Annotated Code of Maryland
27 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Tax – Property

1

2 9–210.

3 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (2) “Cohabitant” means an individual who for a period of at least 180 days
5 in the year before the death of a fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker:6 (i) had a relationship of mutual interdependence with the fallen law
7 enforcement officer or rescue worker; and8 (ii) resided with the fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker
9 in the dwelling.10 (3) “Disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker” means an
11 individual who:12 (i) is a law enforcement officer or rescue worker, as those terms are
13 defined, by law, by the county or municipal corporation as required under subsection (c) of
14 this section;15 (ii) has been found to be permanently and totally disabled by an
16 administrative body or court of competent jurisdiction authorized to make such a
17 determination; and

18 (iii) became disabled:

19 1. as a result of or in the course of employment as a law
20 enforcement officer or a correctional officer; or21 2. while in the active service of a fire, rescue, or emergency
22 medical service, unless the disability was the result of the individual’s own willful
23 misconduct or abuse of alcohol or drugs.

24 (4) (i) “Dwelling” means real property that:

25 1. is the legal residence of a disabled law enforcement officer
26 or rescue worker, a surviving spouse, or a cohabitant; and

27 2. is occupied by not more than two families.

28 (ii) “Dwelling” includes the lot or curtilage and structures necessary
29 to use the real property as a residence.

1 (5) “Fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker” means [an individual
2 who dies]:

3 (i) **AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DIES** as a result of or in the course of
4 employment as a law enforcement officer or a correctional officer; [or]

5 (ii) **AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DIES** while in the active service of a fire,
6 rescue, or emergency medical service, unless the death was the result of the individual’s
7 own willful misconduct or abuse of alcohol or drugs; **OR**

8 **(III) A DISABLED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR RESCUE**
9 **WORKER WHO DIES REGARDLESS OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH.**

10 (6) “Surviving spouse” means a surviving spouse, who has not remarried,
11 of a fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker.

12 (b) **(1)** The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of
13 a county or municipal corporation may grant, by law, a property tax credit under this
14 section against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on a dwelling
15 that is owned by a disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker, a surviving spouse of
16 a fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker, or a cohabitant:

17 **[(1)] (I)** if the dwelling was owned by the disabled law enforcement officer
18 or rescue worker at the time the law enforcement officer or rescue worker was adjudged to
19 be permanently and totally disabled or by the fallen law enforcement officer or rescue
20 worker at the time of the fallen law enforcement officer’s or rescue worker’s death;

21 **[(2)] (II)** if the disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker was
22 domiciled in the State as of, or any time within the 5 years before, the date the disabled
23 law enforcement officer or rescue worker was adjudged to be permanently and totally
24 disabled or the fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker, the surviving spouse, or the
25 cohabitant was domiciled in the State as of, or any time within the 5 years before, the date
26 of the fallen law enforcement officer’s or rescue worker’s death and the dwelling was
27 acquired by the disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker [within 10 years of the
28 date] **AFTER** the disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker was adjudged to be
29 permanently and totally disabled or by the surviving spouse or cohabitant [within 10 years
30 of] **AFTER** the fallen law enforcement officer’s or rescue worker’s death; **OR**

31 **[(3)] (III)** if the dwelling was owned by the surviving spouse or cohabitant
32 at the time of the fallen law enforcement officer’s or rescue worker’s death [; or].

33 **[(4)] (2)** [if the] **FOR A** dwelling **THAT** was acquired after [the] **A** disabled
34 law enforcement officer or rescue worker, [the] **A** surviving spouse, or [the] **A** cohabitant
35 qualified for a credit for a former dwelling under [item (1), (2), or (3)] **PARAGRAPH (1)** of
36 this subsection, [to the extent of the previous credit] **THE CREDIT SHALL BE GRANTED**

1 FOR THE NEWLY ACQUIRED DWELLING IN AN AMOUNT THAT REDUCES THE
2 PROPERTY TAXES OWED ON THE NEWLY ACQUIRED DWELLING BY THE SAME
3 PROPORTION AS THE CREDIT REDUCED THE PROPERTY TAXES ON THE FORMER
4 DWELLING.

5 **(3)** FOR A CREDIT GRANTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH **(1)**
6 **OR (2)** OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON THE
7 DWELLING INCREASES DURING A TAXABLE YEAR OCCURRING AFTER THE CREDIT IS
8 INITIALLY GRANTED, THE CREDIT FOR THAT TAXABLE YEAR MAY BE GRANTED IN AN
9 AMOUNT THAT REDUCES THE PROPERTY TAXES OWED ON THE DWELLING BY THE
10 SAME PROPORTION AS THE INITIAL CREDIT REDUCED THE PROPERTY TAXES ON THE
11 DWELLING.

12 (c) A county or municipal corporation:

13 (1) shall define, by law, who is a law enforcement officer or rescue worker;
14 and

15 (2) may [provide], by law[, for]:

16 (i) **NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (A)(5)(III) OF THIS**
17 **SECTION, LIMIT ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS SECTION TO**
18 **INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(5)(I) AND (II) OF THIS SECTION;**

19 **(II) ESTABLISH** the amount and duration of a property tax credit
20 allowed under this section;

21 [(ii)] **(III) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (B)(1)(II) OF THIS**
22 **SECTION, PROVIDE FOR** any [additional] limitation to the number of years the dwelling
23 was acquired within the date of an adjudication of disability or death; and

24 [(iii)] **(IV) PROVIDE FOR** any other provision necessary to carry out
25 the provisions of this section.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
27 1, 2025, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2025.