

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 910  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Wolek, *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation

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Property Tax - Exemption for Blind Individuals - Alteration

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This bill expands an existing property tax exemption for blind individuals or their surviving spouses by increasing from \$15,000 to \$40,000, the amount of the assessed value of the individual's dwelling that is exempt from State and local property taxes. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2025, and applies to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2025.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Annuity Bond Fund revenues decrease by approximately \$40,000 annually beginning in FY 2026. State expenditures are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
SF Revenue	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)
Expenditure	0	0	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)	(\$40,000)

*Note: ( ) = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** Local property tax revenues decrease by approximately \$450,000 annually beginning in FY 2026. Local expenditures are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Dwelling houses owned by specified blind individuals or their surviving spouses are provided a property tax exemption of \$15,000 from the total assessed value.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The State Department of Assessments and Taxation indicates that 1,431 accounts received the property tax exemption for the 2024 tax year. Based on the

current \$15,000 exemption amount and the \$0.112 State property tax rate (per \$100 of assessed value), the current property tax exemption for blind individuals reduces State property tax revenues by approximately \$25,000 annually. By increasing the exemption amount to \$40,000, State property tax revenues would decrease by approximately \$40,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2026. This results in a State property tax savings of \$28 for each individual.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local property tax revenues may decrease by approximately \$450,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2026. The estimate is based on a weighted average county property tax rate of \$1.20 (per \$100 of assessment) and assumes that all properties have a total assessed value of greater than \$40,000. The revenue estimate has been adjusted to reflect the municipal portion of the individual's property tax bill. Based on this estimate, the local property tax savings average \$320 for each individual.

In response to a request for information on the potential impact of this legislation, Harford County indicates that 60 homeowners currently receive the property tax exemption and as a result, the bill will reduce county revenues by \$14,700 annually. Montgomery County indicates that 181 homeowners currently receive the property tax exemption, with county revenues decreasing by \$43,400 annually due to the higher exemption amount. Wicomico County indicates that 25 homeowners currently receive the property tax exemption, with county revenues decreasing by approximately \$8,500 annually.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 911 (Senator Attar, *et al.*) - Budget and Taxation.

**Information Source(s):** Harford, Montgomery, and Wicomico counties; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 16, 2025  
rh/hlb Third Reader - March 18, 2025

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