

# HOUSE BILL 651

Q1, Q2, Q3  
HB 1286/25 – W&M

6lr2028

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By: **Delegates R. Long, Ciliberti, and Tomlinson**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Tax Exemptions – Individuals Detained or Taken Hostage Abroad**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting from taxation the income of a certain individual detained or  
4 taken hostage abroad during the taxable year and the spouse of that individual;  
5 exempting from property tax certain property that is owned by an individual  
6 detained or taken hostage abroad or the spouse of that individual, subject to certain  
7 limitations; and generally relating to tax exemptions for individuals detained or  
8 taken hostage abroad and the spouses of those individuals.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

10 Article – Tax – General

11 Section 1–101(a) and (g)

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article – Tax – General

16 Section 10–104

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY adding to

20 Article – Tax – General

21 Section 10–110

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

24 BY adding to

25 Article – Tax – Property

26 Section 7–252

27 Annotated Code of Maryland

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

2 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

3 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

4 **Article – Tax – General**

5 1–101.

6 (a) In this article the following words have the meanings indicated.

7 (g) “Department” means the State Department of Assessments and Taxation.

8 10–104.

9 The income tax does not apply to the income of:

10 (1) a common trust fund, as defined in § 3–501(b) of the Financial  
11 Institutions Article;

12 (2) except as provided in §§ 10–101(e)(3) of this subtitle and 10–304(2) of  
13 this title, an organization that is exempt from taxation under § 408(e)(1) or § 501 of the  
14 Internal Revenue Code;

15 (3) a financial institution that is subject to the financial institution  
16 franchise tax;

17 (4) a person subject to taxation under Title 6 of the Insurance Article;

18 (5) except as provided in § 10–102.1 of this subtitle, a partnership, as  
19 defined in § 761 of the Internal Revenue Code;

20 (6) except as provided in § 10–102.1 of this subtitle and § 10–304(3) of this  
21 title, an S corporation;

22 (7) except as provided in § 10–304(4) of this title, an investment conduit or  
23 a special exempt entity; [or]

24 (8) except as provided in § 10–102.1 of this subtitle, a limited liability  
25 company as defined under Title 4A of the Corporations and Associations Article to the  
26 extent that the company is taxable as a partnership, as defined in § 761 of the Internal  
27 Revenue Code; OR

28 (9) (I) AN INDIVIDUAL DETAINED OR TAKEN HOSTAGE ABROAD, AS  
29 DEFINED UNDER § 10–110 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

3 10-110.

4 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "INDIVIDUAL DETAINED OR TAKEN HOSTAGE  
5 ABROAD" MEANS A UNITED STATES NATIONAL WHO, DURING THE TAXABLE YEAR,  
6 IS:

10 (2) TAKEN HOSTAGE ABROAD, AS DETERMINED UNDER § 304 OF THE  
11 ROBERT LEVINSON HOSTAGE RECOVERY AND HOSTAGE-TAKING  
12 ACCOUNTABILITY ACT.

13 (B) THE COMPTROLLER, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT,  
14 SHALL:

15 (1) REGULARLY CONTACT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR  
16 INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS DETAINED OR TAKEN HOSTAGE ABROAD;

17 (2) MAINTAIN A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED UNDER ITEM (1) OF  
18 THIS SUBSECTION; AND

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
23 as follows:

## Article – Tax – Property

25 7-252.

26 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "INDIVIDUAL DETAINED OR TAKEN HOSTAGE  
27 ABROAD" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10–110 OF THE TAX – GENERAL ARTICLE.

**28 (B) PROPERTY IS NOT SUBJECT TO PROPERTY TAX IF THE PROPERTY:**

29 (1) IS OWNED BY:

**(I) AN INDIVIDUAL DETAINED OR TAKEN HOSTAGE ABROAD; OR**

(II) THE SPOUSE OF AN INDIVIDUAL DETAINED OR TAKEN  
D; AND

6 (II) WAS ACTUALLY AND EXCLUSIVELY USED BY AN INDIVIDUAL  
7 DETAINED OR TAKEN HOSTAGE ABROAD UNTIL THE INDIVIDUAL WAS WRONGFULLY  
8 DETAINED OR TAKEN HOSTAGE.

9 (C) AN EXEMPTION UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE GRANTED IN ADDITION  
10 TO ANY OTHER EXEMPTION AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

11 (D) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY  
12 AUTHORIZE, BY LAW, A REFUND TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE  
13 EXEMPTION UNDER THIS SECTION FOR ANY COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION  
14 PROPERTY TAX PAID IN THE TAXABLE YEARS IN WHICH AN EXEMPTION WAS  
15 AUTHORIZED BUT NOT GRANTED.

16 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall be  
17 applicable to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

18 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall be  
19 applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.

20 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
21 1, 2026.