

SENATE BILL 500

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CF 6lr1782

By: **Washington County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County – Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans – Eligibility**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding eligibility for a certain property tax credit in Washington
4 County for certain disabled veterans to include certain members of the National
5 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Public Health Service; and
6 generally relating to a property tax credit for disabled veterans in Washington
7 County.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Tax – Property
10 Section 9–323(g)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Tax – Property**

16 9–323.

17 (g) (1) (i) In this subsection the following words have the meanings
18 indicated.

19 (ii) 1. “Disabled veteran” means an individual who:

20 A. is honorably discharged or released under honorable
21 circumstances from [active military, naval, or air service] **THE UNIFORMED SERVICES** as
22 defined in [38 U.S.C. § 101] **10 U.S.C. § 101**; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



B. has been declared by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a permanent service-connected disability that results from blindness or other disabling cause that:

I. is reasonably certain to continue for the life of the veteran;
and

II. was not caused or incurred by misconduct of the veteran.

2. "Disabled veteran" includes an individual who qualifies posthumously for a service-connected disability.

(iii) "Dwelling house":

1. means real property that is:

A. the legal residence of a disabled veteran or a surviving spouse; and

B. occupied by not more than two families; and

2. includes the lot or curtilage and structures necessary to use the real property as a residence.

(iv) "Surviving spouse" means an individual who has not remarried and who is the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran.

(2) The governing body of Washington County may grant, by law, a property tax credit under this subsection against the county property tax imposed on a dwelling house if:

(i) the dwelling house is owned by:

1. a disabled veteran; or

2. a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran, if:

A. the dwelling house was owned by the disabled veteran at the time of the disabled veteran's death; and

B. the surviving spouse meets the requirements of paragraph (4) of this subsection; and

(ii) the application requirements of paragraph (5) of this subsection are met.

(3) The property tax credit granted under this subsection shall equal a percentage of the amount of property tax imposed on the dwelling house that is equal to the percentage of the disabled veteran's service-connected disability rating.

(4) After a disabled veteran dies, the surviving spouse of the disabled veteran may receive a disabled veteran's property tax credit for the dwelling house that was formerly owned by the disabled veteran if:

(i) the dwelling house received a property tax credit under this subsection; and

(ii) the surviving spouse owns and resides in the dwelling house.

(5) (i) A disabled veteran or a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran shall apply for the property tax credit under this subsection by providing to the county:

1. a copy of the disabled veteran's discharge certificate from active military, naval, or air service; and

2. on the form provided by the county, a certification of the disabled veteran's disability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

(ii) The disabled veteran's certificate of disability may not be inspected by individuals other than:

1. the disabled veteran; or

2. appropriate employees of the county.

(6) The governing body of Washington County may provide, by law, for:

(i) the duration of the tax credit;

(ii) regulations and procedures for the application and uniform processing of requests for the tax credit; and

(iii) any other provision necessary to carry out the tax credit under this subsection.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2026, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.