

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 888
Ways and Means

Washington County - Property Tax Credit for Disabled Veterans - Eligibility

This bill expands the eligibility of a local option property tax credit for disabled veterans in Washington County by including individuals from the uniformed services as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 101. As a result, members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Public Health Service (PHS) are explicitly eligible for the property tax credit. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2026, and applies to taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The bill codifies current practice with regards to the implementation of the property tax credit in Washington County.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Washington County is authorized to grant a property tax credit for a dwelling house owned by a disabled veteran who is honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active military, naval, or air service as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101. To be eligible for the property tax credit, the individual must have 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 is reasonably certain to continue for the life of the veteran and was not caused or incurred by

misconduct of the veteran. Disabled veteran includes an individual who qualifies posthumously for a service-connected disability.

A surviving spouse of a disabled veteran is also eligible to receive the property tax credit if the dwelling house was owned by the disabled veteran at the time of the disabled veteran's death, the dwelling house received the property tax credit, and the surviving spouse currently owns and resides in the dwelling house.

Local Fiscal Effect: Washington County indicates that disabled members of NOAA and PHS have been eligible for the property tax credit since at least 2016. As a result, the bill codifies the county's current practice in issuing the property tax credit.

Property Tax Collections in Washington County

The Washington County fiscal 2026 budget assumes that \$550,000 in property tax credits will be provided to eligible disabled veterans in fiscal 2026. Washington County is projected to collect approximately \$164.2 million in property tax revenues in fiscal 2026, as shown in the [County Revenue Outlook Report](#). The [Guide to Local Government Taxing Authority](#) provides an overview on each county government's statutory authority to establish property tax credits and exemptions. A copy of both reports are available on the Department of Legislative Services [website](#).

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1333 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: SB 500 (Washington County Senators) - Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Washington County; State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Department of Legislative Services

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sj/hlb

Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510