

SB0901-BT_MACo_SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Kinnally

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 901

Property Tax – Elderly Individuals and Veterans Tax Credit – Amount and Duration

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: March 10, 2022

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 901. This bill would alter a local property tax credit for specified elderly individuals and veterans by authorizing local governments to determine the amount and duration of the property tax credit.

MACo generally supports legislation that provides broad authority to enact tax incentives for revitalization and tax relief purposes, and welcomes the opportunity to work with state policymakers to develop flexible and optional tools to create broad or targeted tax incentives. Counties prefer the approach offered by this optional property tax credit, as it provides local autonomy to determine the best way to provide these incentives, rather than those that mandate reductions in local revenue sources.

Under current law, local governments may authorize a property tax credit for older individuals, veterans, and surviving spouses. The maximum duration of the credit is five years, and the credit is limited to 20 percent of the total property tax. In addition, local governments may provide, by law, the maximum assessed value of a dwelling that is eligible for the credit, and, if necessary, any additional eligibility criteria.

By eliminating these caps, each jurisdiction that chooses to enact the credit could tailor it to their specific community needs. Additionally, it would give each county broad discretion to determine how much revenue it is willing to forego to provide the desirable benefits enabled by the bill.

As amended, SB 901 would ensure local governments have flexibility in enacting local policies designed to serve and react to community needs. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 901.

2022 Senate Bill 901 - Hershey - written testimony

Uploaded by: Robert Goldberg

Position: FAV



The Maryland Federation of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) urges the Maryland General Assembly to adopt Senate Bill 901, Property Tax – Elderly Individuals and Veterans Tax Credit – Amount and Duration. Testimony of Robert N. Goldberg on behalf of the Maryland State Legislative Committee of NARFE.

SUMMARY

The Maryland Federation of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) works for legislation in Maryland on behalf of the approximate 300,000 federal employees and annuitants and the more than 800,000 seniors aged 65 and older in the state. One of the principal goals of NARFE Maryland is to reduce the tax burden on seniors living on retirement income. Indeed, Maryland has one of the highest costs of living in the nation, which discourages “aging in place” and encourages migration to senior friendly states. Other states actively recruit seniors with tax incentives because they recognize the value of seniors as economic engines for job and revenue generation. Thus, nine states do not have any state income tax and 14 states exempt all or part of federal pensions from state and local taxes (see figure 1 below). It is clear that Maryland needs to do something about this problem and doing something is in everyone’s interest! Senate Bill 901 takes a modest step by allowing Baltimore City and the counties to grant property tax credits to seniors and active, retired, and honorably discharged members of the uniformed services of the United States and to their surviving spouses. The final decision is left to the counties and the cost to the Maryland treasury is zero. By adopting this legislation, Senate Bill 901 brings about a very much needed sense of *fair play* to the Maryland tax codes. NARFE is pleased to support this legislation. ***The remainder of this document summarizes the cost to Maryland of senior migration - it is very large.***

THE COST OF SENIOR MIGRATION TO MARYLAND

Maryland had larger-than-average population losses, i.e., 59,432 residents in the 65 to 74-year old age group between 2012 and 2017,¹ for an average annual loss of 11,886 seniors in this age group. Using the age distribution of seniors given in “Population Demographics for Maryland 2020, 2019”,² the annual loss of seniors of all ages for Maryland is 21,544. This loss in population results in a loss of adjusted gross income from Maryland – see figure 2. In fact, the data shows that this loss of population has a substantial and detrimental impact both on Maryland’s economy and on the amount of federal grants that Maryland receives (see below). Thus, reform on senior taxation by the Maryland state legislature is in Maryland’s best interest.

Impact on Maryland’s economy. A study³ commissioned by Maryland’s governor and General Assembly found: “For every new elderly household moving into Maryland,

- one-half of a job is supported.

- over \$65,000 in new income per household is created,
- nearly \$10,000 in state and local tax revenues are generated,
- over \$5,000 in local tax revenues are generated, and
- over \$800 in local tax revenue surplus is generated.”

These values are from the year 2006 and are based on an economic model (the IMPLAN input/output model). Adjusting for inflation,⁴ the following values for the respective economic cost to Maryland in the year 2021 are, respectively, \$85,800, \$13,200, \$6,600, and \$1,056. Additionally, Maryland had larger-than-average population losses, i.e., 59,432 residents in the 65 to 74-year old age group between 2012 and 2017,¹ for an average annual loss of 11,886 seniors in this age group. Using the age distribution of seniors given in “Population Demographics for Maryland 2020, 2019”,² the annual loss of seniors of all ages for Maryland is 21,544. This impact on Maryland’s economy is shown in the following table.

For every new senior household moving into Maryland, the economy benefits	2006 dollars	With the loss of one senior household, Maryland’s economy is hurt [†]
One-half of a job is created		One-half of a job is lost
New income	\$65,000	-\$85,000
State/local tax revenue generated	\$10,000	-\$13,200
Local tax revenue generated	\$5,000	-\$6,600
Local tax revenue surplus	\$800	-\$1,056

[†] Adjusted for inflation to 2021 dollars⁴

We estimate an annual loss of circa \$194,000,000 to the Maryland and county treasuries due to senior migration. This estimate is made by multiplying the \$13,200 (see table above) for state and local tax revenues generated (or lost) by 21,544, the annual loss of seniors of all ages for Maryland, and then by dividing by 1.47, an estimated value⁵ for the size of a senior household. It should be recognized that a senior who migrates from Maryland pays no taxes in Maryland and no longer contributes to its economy. Additionally, the economic impact due to loss of seniors extends to all parts of Maryland’s economy. *These economic effects are cumulative.*

Impact on federal grants. Maryland seniors who move out of state will impact negatively the federal grant amounts for Maryland. These grants are made through block grant programs in which each state receives a set amount of money from the federal government. The amounts of the block grants can be based on per capita or on the needs of the state. This includes SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and Medicaid. A study from the George Washington University Institute of Public Policy⁶ states: “In Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, 316 federal spending programs relied on 2010 Census-derived data to distribute \$1.504 trillion to state and local governments, nonprofits, businesses, and households across the nation. This figure accounted for 7.8 percent of Gross Domestic Product in FY2017. The bottom line: It’s a lot of money, it’s complicated, and it depends. In other words, census-guided spending makes up a large portion of the economy, the role of census-derived data in guiding that funding is not simple by any means, and the sensitivity of census-guided funding on state and local census accuracy differs greatly from program to program. In FY2016, Maryland received \$16,300,000,000 through federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 Census.”⁶ Dividing this value by a Maryland population of 5,773,552,² one arrives at the amount of \$2,823 per person. Then, using the value of 21,554 for annual senior migration from Maryland (see above), the annual economic cost to the Maryland treasury due to loss of federal grants that are based only on population is \$61,000,000.

Additional negative impacts. In addition to the losses due to decreased economic activity, loss of federal grants funds, and inability to tax those who have left Maryland (this includes snowbirds), there are other negative impacts to Maryland from losing seniors to other states that are not easy to assign dollar values to, such as the following.

- Seniors leaving the state can affect the number of *representatives in Congress* which depends on the state's population.
- Seniors are a major source of *volunteer efforts* which enhance the quality of life in Maryland.
- Seniors do not have *children in school*.
- Seniors vote at a very high rate.

What Needs To Be Done To Reverse this Trend

The Maryland NARFE Federation urges the Maryland General Assembly to adopt legislation to eliminate or significantly reduce taxes on all sources of retirement income, and allow Maryland to compete aggressively with other more senior friendly states.

References:

1. James Palma, *A Review of Migration Trends in Maryland*, Maryland Department of Commerce, Baltimore, Maryland (2018).
2. Population Demographics for Maryland 2020, 2019, <https://suburbanstats.org/population/how-many-people-live-in-maryland>.
3. *The dynamics of elderly and retiree migration into and out of Maryland task force report – A Report to Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and the Maryland General Assembly* (2006).
4. <https://www.inflationtool.com/us-dollar/2006-to-present-value>.
5. <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/blog/the-number-of-people-living-alone-in-their-80s-and-90s-is-set-to-soar>. The value 1.47 is estimated from the data given in this report.
6. George Washington University Institute of Public Policy, <https://gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-role-decennial-census-geographic-distribution-federal-funds>.

STATE TAX TREATMENT

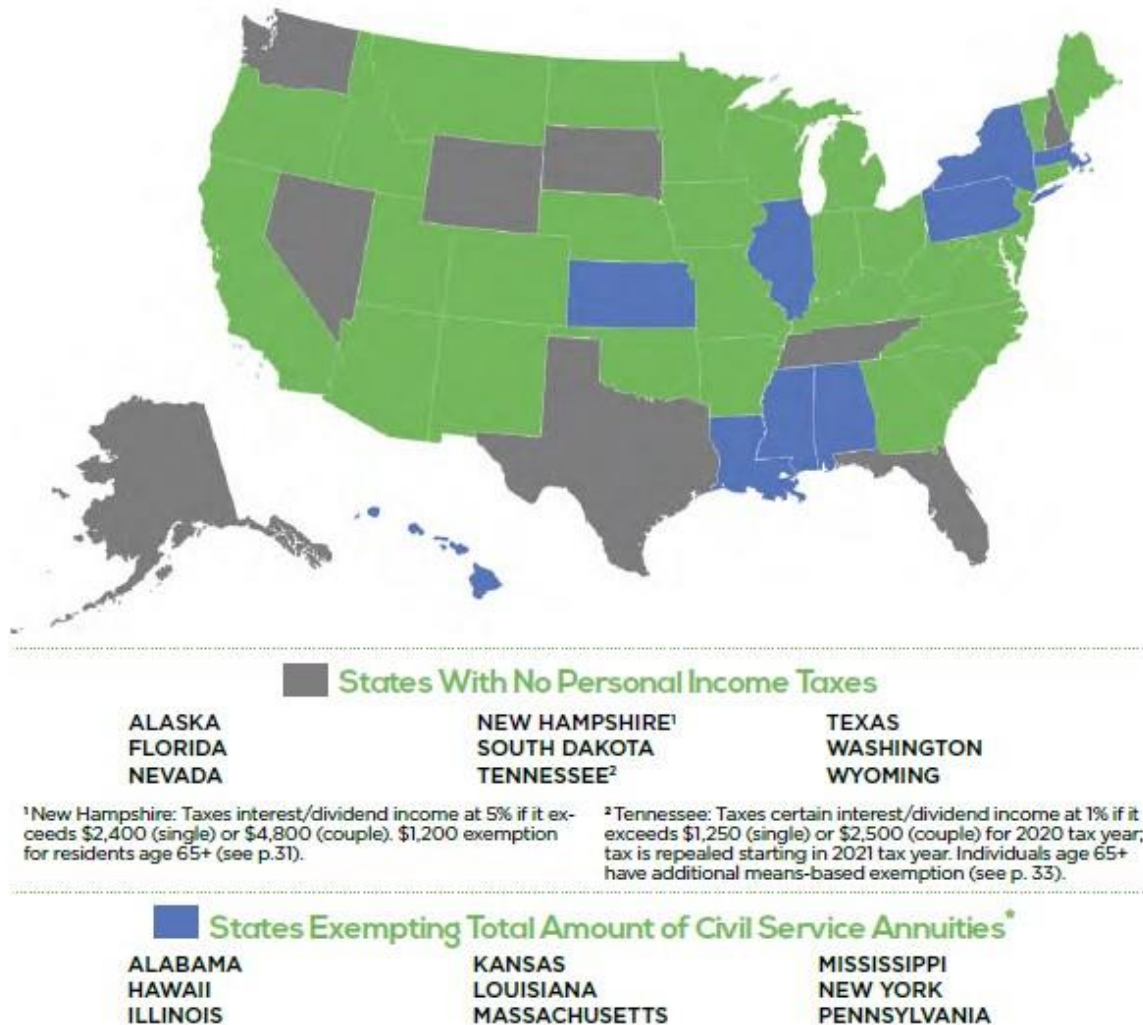


Figure 1. State taxation of retirement income. Source: National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association magazine, April 2021.

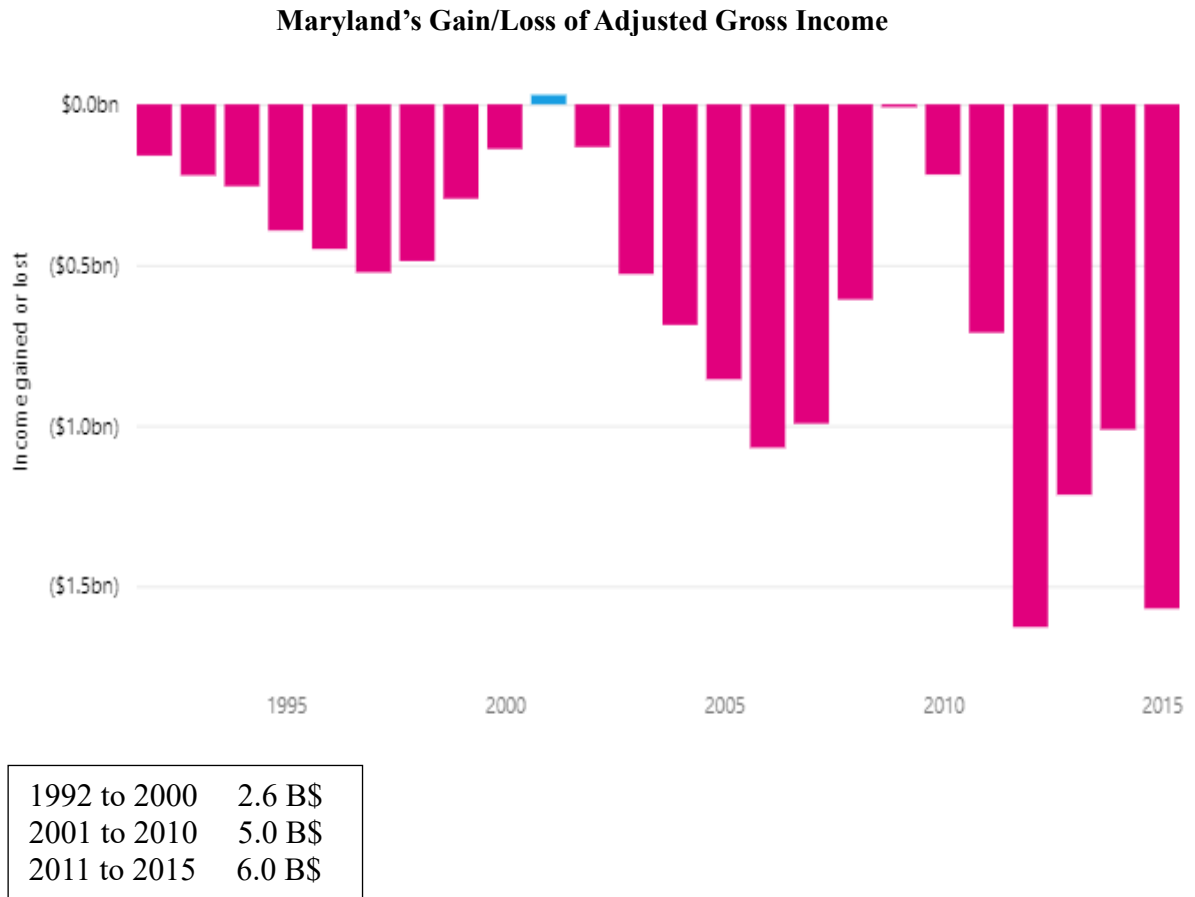


Figure 2. The loss of adjusted gross income from Maryland from 1992 to 2015. Blue is gain. Red is loss. Source: <https://usafacts.org/articles/interstate-population-migration/> based on data from the IRS Statistics of Income Division.

AARP SB901_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Steve Hershey

Position: FAV



One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpm
facebook.com/aarpm

SB 901 Property Tax - Elderly Individuals and Veterans Tax Credit - Amount and Duration
FAVORABLE
Senate Budget and Taxation
March 10, 2022

Good Afternoon Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the state, encompassing over 850,000 members and well over 100,000 veterans. AARP MD overwhelmingly supports **SB 901 Property Tax - Elderly Individuals and Veterans Tax Credit - Amount and Duration**. We thank Senator Hershey for sponsoring this important legislation.

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities, and protection from financial abuse.

SB 901 authorizes the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or municipal corporation to determine the amount and duration of a tax credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on the dwelling of elderly individuals and veterans.

Veterans have served our country. AARP MD supports legislation that allows local jurisdictions to offer a property tax credit to our hometown heroes. Disabled veterans, their older spouses, and older Marylanders who are retired are far less likely to be able to gain and maintain employment and far more likely to live on a fixed income.

The mainstay of local taxation is the tax on real estate, known as the property tax. It is used to fund an array of state and local services, most notably public schools. Policymakers face challenges with the tax's structure and administration. This includes its burden on households with low income or those on fixed incomes. While property taxes mainly exist at the local level, states play an important role in creating property tax relief programs.

AARP believes we must honor the service and acknowledge the sacrifice of our veterans. Senate Bill 901 does so. Additionally, SB 901 will allow retired or disabled veterans, their spouses and older Marylanders who live on fixed incomes remain in their lifelong homes to age in place. SB

901 allows a local jurisdiction to determine the amount and duration of a property tax credit which is the right thing to do.

We respectfully request a favorable report for SB 901. For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Associate State Director of Advocacy at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

NARFE Oral Test SB901_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Steve Hershey

Position: FAV

Good Afternoon Chairman Guzzone and Members of this Committee. . My name is _____ and I serve on the Maryland State Legislative Committee of NARFE, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. NARFE supports legislation that promotes the general welfare of Federal annuitant senior citizens in Maryland with respect to their rights under tax laws and regulations as well as other state legislation to protect seniors. We represent approximately 300,000 Federal employees and annuitants living in Maryland. For the continuing benefit of our senior membership as well as all Maryland seniors, we support SB 901 - Property Tax – Elderly Individuals and Veterans Tax Credit – Amount and Duration -- introduced by Senator Hershey. Current law allows allow Maryland Counties and Baltimore City to adopt a property tax credit for Seniors and Veterans, subject to a cap of 20% of the tax, and a duration of no more than five years. To date, only eight counties have done this. SB 901 would remove these caps and allow the counties and Baltimore City to adopt more substantial property tax relief for Seniors and Veterans.

NARFE supports SB 901 as well as numerous other proposed bills this session offering tax relief to Seniors. Maryland has one of the highest costs of living and state income taxes in the nation. This discourages “aging in place” and encourages migration to senior friendly states. Many other states actively recruit seniors with tax incentives because they recognize the value of seniors as economic engines for job and revenue generation. Thus, nine states do not have any state income tax and 14 states exempt all or part of federal pensions from state and local taxes. My written testimony clearly demonstrates the cost to Maryland of senior migration - it is very large. The cost is due to loss of tax revenue, loss of economic growth, loss of federal grants, and loss of volunteer labor. It could actually cost Maryland a representative in the U.S. Congress. Seniors do not have children in school and seniors vote at a very high rate. The documentation provided by NARFE is quantitative and rigorous. It is compelling. It is ***not*** anecdotal and it should not be ignored! And it is clear that Maryland needs to do something about this problem and doing something is in everyone’s interest! Senate Bill 901 takes a modest step by allowing counties to grant robust property tax credits to Seniors, active and disabled Veterans and their surviving spouses. The final decision is left to the counties and the cost to the Maryland treasury is zero. By adopting this legislation, Senate Bill 901 brings about a very much needed sense of much ***needed fair play*** to the Maryland tax codes. NARFE is pleased to support this legislation, and we request a favorable report on SB 901. Thank You.

SB 901 Senator Hershey_FAV.pdf

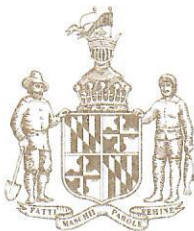
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STEPHEN S. HERSHEY, JR.
Legislative District 36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, and
Queen Anne's Counties

Finance Committee
Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 320
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3639 · 301-858-3639
800-492-7122 Ext. 3639
Fax 410-841-3762 · 301-858-3762
Steve.Hershey@senate.state.md.us

The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 9, 2022

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Budget and Taxation Committee
Senate Bill 901 – Property Tax – Elderly Individuals and Veterans Tax Credit – Amount and Duration

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland has one of the highest costs of living in the nation and this discourages “aging in place” and encourages migration to senior friendly states.

Senate Bill 901 gives local governments the full authority to grant a property tax credit for senior individuals over age 65 and disabled veterans and to determine that amount and duration of the property tax credit. Currently, the property tax credit may not exceed 20% of the property taxes owned and the duration may not exceed 5 years.

Senate Bill 901 is supported by AARP and NARFE. I request a favorable vote on Senate Bill 901.

SB901 NARFE Testimony_FAV.pdf

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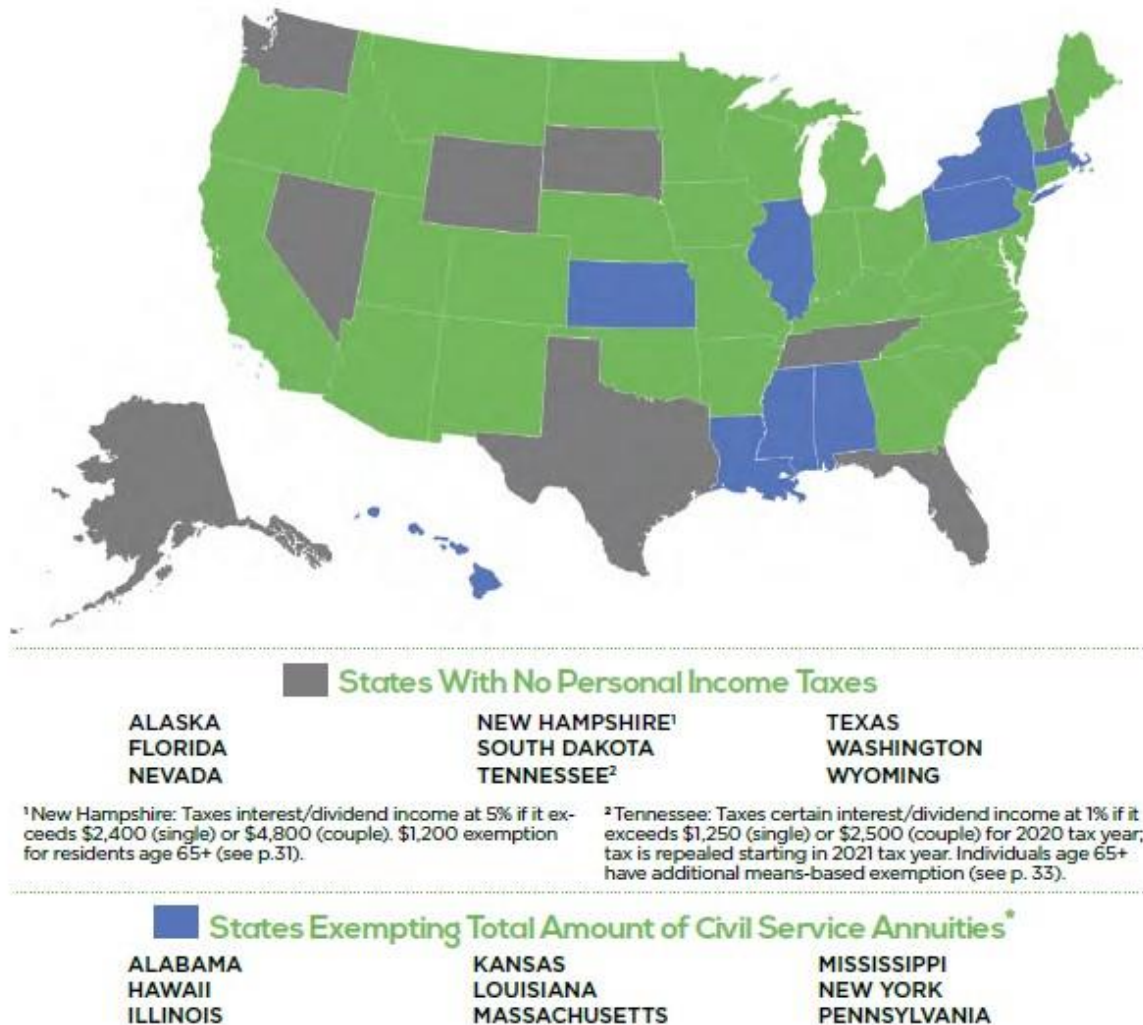


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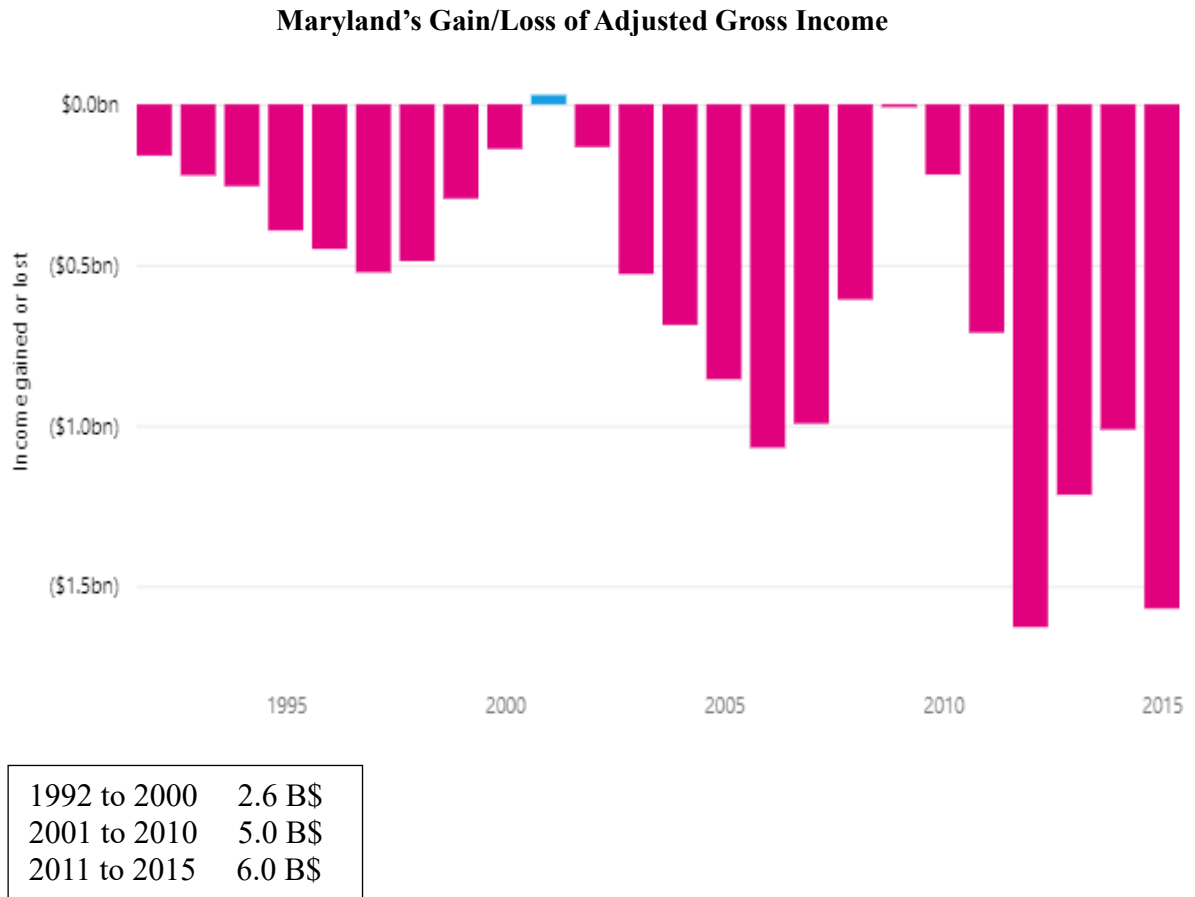


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Uploaded by: Tammy Bresnahan

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One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpmd
facebook.com/aarpmd

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