

COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND  
LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2020-07

BILL NO. 2020-02

**Title of Bill:** Taxation – Tax Credit – Senior Citizens and Veterans

**Synopsis:** A Bill to provide for a Cecil County Senior Citizens and Veterans Tax Credit Program; to establish a property tax credit for certain senior citizens and veterans; to establish the criteria for the property tax credit created; and generally relating to property tax discounts and credits.

**Introduced by:** Council President at the request of the County Executive

**Introduced and order posted on:** April 7, 2020

**Public hearing scheduled on:** May 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**Consideration scheduled on:** May, 19, 2020

By: James Massey  
Council Manager

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice of time and place of public hearing and title of Bill having been posted by April 7, 2020 at the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton, and having been published according to the Charter on April 22, 2020 and April 29, 2020, a public hearing was held on May 12, 2020 and concluded on May 12, 2020

By: James Massey  
Council Manager

**Explanation:** CAPITAL LETTERS INDICATE LANGUAGE ADDED TO EXISTING DOCUMENT  
~~Strike through~~ indicates language deleted from existing document  
Underlining indicates language added to document by amendment.  
~~Double Strike through~~ indicates language stricken from document by amendment.

1           **WHEREAS**, Part II, Chapter 337, Taxation, provides certain tax credits for certain individuals,  
2 companies, and real estate uses, in Cecil County, Maryland; and

3           **WHEREAS**, Md. Code Ann., § 9-258, Tax Property Article, authorizes the governing body of a  
4 county to grant, by law, a property tax credit against the county property tax imposed on the dwelling of  
5 an eligible individual; and

6           **WHEREAS**, Md. Code Ann., § 9-258, Tax Property Article, defines an “eligible individual” as an  
7 individual who is at least 65-years of age, an individual who is at least 65-years of age and is a retired  
8 member of the uniformed armed services of the United States as defined in 10 U.S.C. Section 101, the  
9 military reserves, or the National Guard, or a surviving spouse, who is at least 65-years of age and has not  
10 remarried, of a retired member of the uniformed armed services of the United States as defined in 10  
11 U.S.C. Section 101, the military reserves, or the National Guard; and

12           **WHEREAS**, the property tax credit allowed under Md. Code Ann., § 9-258, Tax Property Article may  
13 not exceed 20% of the county property tax imposed on the property, and may be granted for a period not  
14 to exceed five years for each eligible individual’s property; and

15           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., § 9-258, Tax Property Article, the County Council may  
16 provide, by law, for the maximum assessed value of a dwelling that is eligible for the tax credit under this  
17 section, the minimum number of years, not to exceed 40-years, that an eligible individual must have  
18 resided in the same dwelling, for additional eligibility criteria for the tax credit under this provision, for  
19 regulations and procedures for the application and uniform processing of requests for the tax credit, and  
20 any other provision necessary to carry out the tax credit under this provision; and

21           **WHEREAS**, the County Executive has forwarded this Bill to the County Council for consideration of  
22 an amendment to Part II, Chapter 337, Taxation, to add a new Article IX, Section 337-46, Tax Credit for  
23 Senior Citizens and Veterans, of the Cecil County Code, to provide for Cecil County Senior Citizens and  
24 Veterans Tax Credit Program; to establish a property tax credit for certain senior citizen individuals and  
25 veterans; to establish the criteria for the property tax credit created; and generally relating to property  
26 tax discounts and credits concurs with the definition proposed above, and has submitted the amendment  
27 set forth herein to the County Council for consideration and approval, consistent with the text set forth  
28 below.

29           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND, IN**  
30 **LEGISLATIVE SESSION**, that Part II, Chapter 337, Taxation, is hereby amended to add a new Article IX,

31 Section 337-46, Tax Credit for Senior Citizens and Veterans, of the Cecil County Code, to provide for Cecil  
32 County Senior Citizens and Veterans Tax Credit Program, to establish a property tax credit for certain  
33 senior citizens and veterans; to establish the criteria for the property tax credit created, and generally  
34 relating to property tax credits for eligible individuals as defined herein, as follows:

35 Part II, Chapter 337, § 337-46. TAX CREDIT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND VETERANS.

36 A. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
37 INDICATED:

38 DWELLING - HAS THE SAME MEANING AS IN § 9-105 OF THE TAX- PROPERTY ARTICLE OF  
39 THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

40 ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL -

41 (1) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT LEAST 65 YEARS OLD AND HAS LIVED IN THE  
42 SAME DWELLING FOR AT LEAST THE PRECEEDING 40 YEARS; OR

43 (2) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT LEAST 65 YEARS OLD AND IS A RETIRED MEMBER  
44 OF THE UNIFORMCED SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES AS DEFINED IN 10 U.S.C. § 101, THE MILITARY  
45 RESERVES OR NATIONAL GUARD; OR

46 (3) A SURVIVING SPOUSE, WHO IS AT LEAST 65-YEARS OF AGE AND HAS NOT  
47 REMARRIED, OF A RETIRED MEMBER OF THE UNIFORMED ARMED SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES AS  
48 DEFINED IN 10 U.S.C. SECTION 101, THE MILITARY RESERVES, OR THE NATIONAL GUARD, WHO RESIDES IN  
49 THE SAME DWELLING AS THE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL DECEDENT SPOUSE.

50 B. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF TAX-PROPERTY ARTICLE, §9-258, OF THE  
51 ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AN ELIGBLE INDIVIDUAL (AS DEFINED IN SECTIONS A(1), A(2), AND A(3)  
52 ABOVE) MAY RECEIVE A CREDIT AGAINST THE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON THEIR DWELLNG  
53 SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:

54 (1) THE CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS SECTION IS 20% OF THE COUNTY  
55 PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON THE DWELLNG;

56 (2) THE CREDIT MAY BE GRANTED FOR A MAXIMUM OF 5 YEARS;

57 (3) THE DWELLING FOR WHICH A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT IS SOUGHT HAS A  
58 MAXIMUM ASSESSED VALUE OF \$400,000 AT THE TIME THE ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL FIRST APPLIED  
59 FOR THE CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

60                   (4)     AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL MUST HAVE A HOUSEHOLD TAXABLE NET  
61 INCOME (ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME – PRIOR YEAR’S FEDERAL TAX RETURN) OF NOT MORE THAN  
62 \$84,000 (EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 140% OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND HOMEOWNERS TAX CREDIT).

63           C.       TO RECEIVE A CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION, AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL SHALL FILE AN  
64 APPLICATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND SHALL PROVIDE ANY OTHER  
65 DOCUMENTATION AS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

66           **AND IT IS FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND,**  
67 that this Bill shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date that it becomes law.

CERTIFICATION

I, HEREBY CERTIFY that the above Bill was posted for the public on the public bulletin board with the date, time and location of the public hearing meeting, copies were made available for the public, a copy was distributed to the press, and copy was made available on the Cecil County website.

  
BY Council Manager

**BILL NO: 2020-02**

**Title of Bill: Taxation- Tax Credit – Senior Citizens and Veterans**

s hereby submitted to the County Council of Cecil County, Maryland for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

**CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT**

**ENROLLED**

James Massey  
Council Manager

[Signature]  
Council President

Date: May 19, 2020

Date: May 19, 2020

**BY THE COUNCIL**

Read the third time.

**Passed – LSD 2020-010**

**Failed of Passage – LSD \_\_\_\_\_**

BY: James Massey  
Council Manager

**SEALED WITH THE COUNTY SEAL AND PRESENTED TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE** for approval this

21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 20 20 at 4:00 am/pm  
(within 10 business days from adoption §306)



BY: James Massey  
Council Manager

BY THE EXECUTIVE:  
[Signature]  
Cecil County Executive

APPROVED Date: 5/22/20

VETOED Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(within 10 business days from presentation §306)

**BY THE COUNCIL**

**Bill No. 2020-02** having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council becomes law

on May 22, 2020 with an effective date of July 21, 2020

BY: James Massey  
Council Manager