SENATE BILL 719

Q2, L2 5lr3201 **CF HB 791** By: Senator Carozza Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2025 Assigned to: Budget and Taxation Committee Report: Favorable Senate action: Adopted Read second time: February 11, 2025 CHAPTER AN ACT concerning Somerset County - Property Tax - Emergency Services Tax FOR the purpose of authorizing the County Commissioners of Somerset County to impose an emergency services tax on all property subject to the county property tax to pay costs of emergency services; prohibiting the county commissioners from initially imposing or subsequently increasing an emergency services tax until after a public hearing is held; and generally relating to an emergency services tax in Somerset County. BY adding to The Public Local Laws of Somerset County Section 7–401 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 4. Emergency Services Tax" Article 20 – Public Local Laws of Maryland (2015 edition, as amended) SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: **Article 20 – Somerset County** SUBTITLE 4. EMERGENCY SERVICES TAX.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.

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7–401.

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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$\frac{1}{2}$	(A) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY IMPOSE, BY LAW, AN ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX ON ALL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO THE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX TO PAY
3	ALL OR PART OF THE COSTS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN THE COUNTY, INCLUDING
ა 4	FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.
4	FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCI MEDICAL SERVICES.
5	(B) (1) THE EMERGENCY SERVICES TAX SHALL BE COLLECTED IN THE
6	SAME MANNER AS OTHER COUNTY TAXES ARE COLLECTED.
7	(2) IF A PROPERTY OWNER FAILS TO PAY THE EMERGENCY SERVICES
8	TAX WHEN DUE AND PAYABLE, THE UNPAID TAX SHALL:
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9	(I) BE A LIEN ON ALL PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE PERSON
10	REQUIRED TO MAKE PAYMENT; AND
11	(II) ACCRUE INTEREST AND PENALTIES AT THE SAME RATE AND
12	IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ACCRUAL OF INTEREST AND PENALTIES FOR UNPAID
13	COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES.
14	(3) PROPERTY MAY BE SOLD IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 14,
15	SUBTITLE 8 OF THE TAX - PROPERTY ARTICLE TO ENFORCE THE EMERGENCY
16	SERVICES TAX.
17	(C) (1) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY NOT ENACT A LAW TO
18	INITIALLY IMPOSE OR SUBSEQUENTLY INCREASE AN EMERGENCY SERVICES TAX
19	UNTIL AFTER A PUBLIC HEARING IS HELD ON THE PROPOSED LAW AT THE SAME
20	TIME AS THE COUNTY'S ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING.
21	(2) THE COUNTY SHALL PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH ADVANCE
22	NOTICE OF THE HEARING REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.
23	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
24	1, 2025, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2025.
	Approved:
	Governor.
	President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.