

SENATE BILL 25

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(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Requested: October 25, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Property Tax Credit – Disabled or Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue**
3 **Worker – Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of altering, for purposes of a certain property tax credit for a certain
5 dwelling, the definition of “fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker” to include
6 disabled law enforcement officers or rescue workers who have died regardless of the
7 cause of death; repealing a certain requirement, and the authority of a county to
8 impose a requirement, that, for purposes of eligibility for the credit, the dwelling
9 must have been acquired by the disabled or fallen law enforcement officer or rescue
10 worker or the surviving spouse or cohabitant within a certain number of years after
11 a certain finding; requiring the amount of the credit for a newly acquired dwelling
12 owned by a disabled or fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker or the
13 surviving spouse or cohabitant to be in the same proportion as the property tax credit
14 for a certain former dwelling; requiring, under certain circumstances, the amount of
15 the credit for a dwelling owned by a disabled or fallen law enforcement officer or
16 rescue worker or the surviving spouse or cohabitant to be in the same proportion as
17 the property tax credit initially granted for the dwelling; and generally relating to a
18 property tax credit for a dwelling owned by a disabled or fallen law enforcement
19 officer or rescue worker or the surviving spouse or cohabitant.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21 Article – Tax – Property
22 Section 9–210
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

27 **Article – Tax – Property**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 9–210.

2 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (2) “Cohabitant” means an individual who for a period of at least 180 days
4 in the year before the death of a fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker:

5 (i) had a relationship of mutual interdependence with the fallen law
6 enforcement officer or rescue worker; and

7 (ii) resided with the fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker
8 in the dwelling.

9 (3) “Disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker” means an
10 individual who:

11 (i) is a law enforcement officer or rescue worker, as those terms are
12 defined, by law, by the county or municipal corporation as required under subsection (c) of
13 this section;

14 (ii) has been found to be permanently and totally disabled by an
15 administrative body or court of competent jurisdiction authorized to make such a
16 determination; and

17 (iii) became disabled:

18 1. as a result of or in the course of employment as a law
19 enforcement officer or a correctional officer; or

20 2. while in the active service of a fire, rescue, or emergency
21 medical service, unless the disability was the result of the individual’s own willful
22 misconduct or abuse of alcohol or drugs.

23 (4) (i) “Dwelling” means real property that:

24 1. is the legal residence of a disabled law enforcement officer
25 or rescue worker, a surviving spouse, or a cohabitant; and

26 2. is occupied by not more than two families.

27 (ii) “Dwelling” includes the lot or curtilage and structures necessary
28 to use the real property as a residence.

29 (5) “Fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker” means [an individual
30 who dies]:

(i) **AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DIES** as a result of or in the course of employment as a law enforcement officer or a correctional officer; [or]

(ii) **AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DIES** while in the active service of a fire, rescue, or emergency medical service, unless the death was the result of the individual's own willful misconduct or abuse of alcohol or drugs; **OR**

(III) A DISABLED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR RESCUE WORKER WHO DIES, REGARDLESS OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH.

(6) "Surviving spouse" means a surviving spouse, who has not remarried, of a fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker.

(b) **(1) [The] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE** Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county or municipal corporation may grant, by law, a property tax credit under this section against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on a dwelling that is owned by a disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker, a surviving spouse of a fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker, or a cohabitant:

[(1)] (I) if the dwelling was owned by the disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker at the time the law enforcement officer or rescue worker was adjudged to be permanently and totally disabled or by the fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker at the time of the fallen law enforcement officer's or rescue worker's death;

[(2)] (II) if the disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker was domiciled in the State as of, or any time within the 5 years before, the date the disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker was adjudged to be permanently and totally disabled or the fallen law enforcement officer or rescue worker, the surviving spouse, or the cohabitant was domiciled in the State as of, or any time within the 5 years before, the date of the fallen law enforcement officer's or rescue worker's death and the dwelling was acquired by the disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker [within 10 years of the date] **AFTER** the disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker was adjudged to be permanently and totally disabled or by the surviving spouse or cohabitant [within 10 years of] **AFTER** the fallen law enforcement officer's or rescue worker's death; **OR**

[(3)] (III) if the dwelling was owned by the surviving spouse or cohabitant at the time of the fallen law enforcement officer's or rescue worker's death[; or].

[(4)] (2) [if the] **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, FOR A** dwelling **THAT** was acquired after [the] **A** disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker, [the] **A** surviving spouse, or [the] **A** cohabitant qualified for a credit for a former dwelling under [item (1), (2), or (3)] **PARAGRAPH (1)** of this subsection, [to the extent of the previous credit] **THE CREDIT SHALL BE GRANTED FOR THE NEWLY ACQUIRED DWELLING IN AN AMOUNT THAT REDUCES THE PROPERTY TAXES OWED ON THE**

1 NEWLY ACQUIRED DWELLING BY THE SAME PROPORTION AS THE CREDIT REDUCED
2 THE PROPERTY TAXES ON THE FORMER DWELLING.

3 **(3) FOR A CREDIT GRANTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1)**
4 **OR (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY TAX IMPOSED ON THE**
5 **DWELLING INCREASES DURING A TAXABLE YEAR OCCURRING AFTER THE CREDIT IS**
6 **INITIALLY GRANTED, THE CREDIT FOR THAT TAXABLE YEAR SHALL BE GRANTED IN**
7 **AN AMOUNT THAT REDUCES THE PROPERTY TAXES OWED ON THE DWELLING BY THE**
8 **SAME PROPORTION AS THE INITIAL CREDIT REDUCED THE PROPERTY TAXES ON THE**
9 **DWELLING.**

10 (c) A county or municipal corporation:

11 (1) shall define, by law, who is a law enforcement officer or rescue worker;
12 and

13 (2) may provide, by law, for:

14 (i) the amount and duration of a property tax credit allowed under
15 this section; **AND**

16 (ii) [any additional limitation to the number of years the dwelling
17 was acquired within the date of an adjudication of disability or death; and

18 (iii)] any other provision necessary to carry out the provisions of this
19 section.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
21 1, 2024, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2024.