

# HOUSE BILL 591

Q1  
HB 708/20 – W&M

11r0705  
CF SB 258

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By: **Delegate R. Watson**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Property Tax Exemption – Disabled Veterans**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding eligibility for a property tax exemption for the dwelling  
4 house of a disabled veteran to include veterans with at least a certain percentage of  
5 service connected disability; providing for the application of this Act; and generally  
6 relating to a property tax exemption for the dwelling house of a disabled veteran.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Tax – Property  
9 Section 7–208(a)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Tax – Property  
14 Section 7–208(b)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Tax – Property**

20 7–208.

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

22 (2) “Disabled active duty service member” means an individual in active  
23 service of the military, naval, or air service as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101 who has a service

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 connected physical disability that:

2 (i) is reasonably certain to continue for the life of the service  
3 member; and

4 (ii) was not caused or incurred by misconduct of the service member.

5 (3) (i) “Disabled veteran” means an individual who:

6 1. is honorably discharged or released under honorable  
7 circumstances from active military, naval, or air service as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101; and

8 2. has been declared by the Veterans’ Administration to have  
9 a permanent [100%] service connected disability **OF AT LEAST 80%** that results from  
10 blindness or other disabling cause that:

11 A. is reasonably certain to continue for the life of the veteran;  
12 and

13 B. was not caused or incurred by misconduct of the veteran.

14 (ii) “Disabled veteran” includes an individual who qualifies  
15 posthumously for a [100%] service connected disability **OF AT LEAST 80%**.

16 (4) “Dwelling house”:

17 (i) means real property that is:

18 1. the legal residence of a disabled active duty service  
19 member, disabled veteran, or surviving spouse; and

20 2. occupied by not more than 2 families; and

21 (ii) includes the lot or curtilage and structures necessary to use the  
22 real property as a residence.

23 (5) “Individual who died in the line of duty” means an individual who died  
24 while in the active military, naval, or air service of the United States as a result of an injury  
25 or disease that is deemed under 38 U.S.C. § 105 to have been incurred in the line of duty.

26 (6) “Surviving spouse” means an individual who has not remarried and  
27 who:

28 (i) is the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran;

29 (ii) is the surviving spouse of an individual who died in the line of  
30 duty; or

1 (iii) receives Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the  
2 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

3 (b) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a dwelling house is exempt  
4 from property tax if:

5 (1) the dwelling house is owned by:

6 (i) a disabled active duty service member;

7 (ii) a disabled veteran;

8 (iii) a surviving spouse of an individual who died in the line of duty,  
9 if:

10 1. the dwelling house was owned by the individual at the  
11 time of the individual's death;

12 2. the dwelling house was acquired by the surviving spouse  
13 within 2 years of the individual's death, if the individual or the surviving spouse was  
14 domiciled in the State as of the date of the individual's death; or

15 3. the dwelling house was acquired after the surviving  
16 spouse qualified for exemption for a former dwelling house under item 1 or 2 of this item,  
17 to the extent of the previous exemption; or

18 (iv) a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who meets the  
19 requirements of subsection (c) of this section; and

20 (2) the application requirements of subsection (d) of this section are met.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
22 1, 2021, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2021.