

HOUSE BILL 923

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By: **Delegate Valderrama**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Property Tax – Exemption for Dwellings of Surviving Spouses of Disabled**
3 **Veterans – Application**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the application requirements for a certain property tax
5 exemption for a dwelling house owned by the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran;
6 and generally relating to a property tax exemption for a dwelling house owned by
7 the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Tax – Property
10 Section 7–208
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Tax – Property**

16 7–208.

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

18 (2) “Disabled active duty service member” means an individual in active
19 service of the military, naval, or air service as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101 who has a service
20 connected physical disability that:

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

4 2. has been declared by the Veterans’ Administration to have
5 a permanent 100% service connected disability that results from blindness or other
6 disabling cause that:

7 A. is reasonably certain to continue for the life of the veteran;
8 and

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

10 (ii) “Disabled veteran” includes an individual who qualifies
11 posthumously for a 100% service connected disability.

12 (4) “Dwelling house”:

13 (i) means real property that is:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (1) the dwelling house is owned by:

2 (i) a disabled active duty service member;

3 (ii) a disabled veteran;

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (c) Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of this section, after a disabled
18 veteran dies, the surviving spouse of the disabled veteran shall receive a disabled veteran's
19 property tax exemption:

20 (1) for the dwelling house that was formerly owned by the disabled veteran:

21 (i) if the dwelling house received an exemption under this section;

22 and

23 (ii) if the surviving spouse owns and resides in the dwelling house;

24 (2) for the dwelling house that was formerly occupied by the disabled
25 veteran:

26 (i) if the dwelling house did not receive an exemption under this
27 section;

28 (ii) if the disabled veteran was domiciled in the State at death; and

29 (iii) if the surviving spouse owns and resides in the dwelling house;

30 and

1 (3) for a dwelling house subsequently acquired by the surviving spouse,
2 equal to the exemption for the former dwelling house when the dwelling house owned by
3 the surviving spouse was transferred by the surviving spouse:

4 (i) if the surviving spouse owns and resides in the subsequently
5 acquired dwelling house; and

6 (ii) if the surviving spouse has qualified under item (1) or (2) of this
7 subsection.

8 (d) (1) A disabled veteran or a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran shall
9 apply for an exemption under this section by providing to the supervisor:

10 (i) a copy of the disabled veteran's discharge certificate from active
11 military, naval, or air service; and

12 (ii) **1.** on the form provided by the Department, a certification of
13 the disabled veteran's disability from the Veterans' Administration; **OR**

14 **2. DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION**
15 **DOCUMENTATION FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS'**
16 **AFFAIRS.**

17 (2) The disabled veteran's certificate of disability may not be inspected by
18 individuals other than:

19 (i) the disabled veteran; or

20 (ii) appropriate employees of the State, a county, or a municipal
21 corporation.

22 (3) A disabled active duty service member shall apply for an exemption
23 under this section by providing to the supervisor, on the form provided by the Department,
24 a certification of the service member's disability from a physician licensed to practice
25 medicine in the State or from the Veterans' Administration.

26 (4) A surviving spouse of an individual who died in the line of duty shall
27 apply for an exemption under this section by providing to the supervisor certification that
28 the individual died while in active service as a result of an injury or disease incurred in the
29 line of duty.

30 (e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an exemption
31 under this section shall be granted in addition to any other exemption authorized by law.

1 (2) An individual may receive an exemption under this section or under §
2 7–207 of this subtitle but not under both.

3 (f) (1) An exemption under this section is prorated by the supervisor for any
4 part of a taxable year that remains after the date in the year when the disabled active duty
5 service member, disabled veteran, or surviving spouse applies for the exemption.

6 (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article and except as
7 provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, if a dwelling is transferred to a disabled
8 active duty service member, disabled veteran, or surviving spouse who qualifies for an
9 exemption under this section, the exemption applies and the property tax is abated from
10 the date of settlement for the purchase of the property, if the transferee applies for the
11 exemption within 30 days after the settlement for the purchase of the property.

12 (ii) Notwithstanding § 7–104 of this title and for any taxable year
13 beginning on or after July 1, 2018, the governing body of Montgomery County may
14 authorize, by law, an abatement of any overdue property tax:

15 1. on a dwelling transferred to a disabled active duty service
16 member, disabled veteran, or surviving spouse who applies for and qualifies for an
17 exemption under this section; and

18 2. for which the transferee is liable.

19 (3) The Department shall adopt regulations to administer the provisions of
20 paragraph (2)(i) of this subsection.

21 (g) (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, in the taxable years
22 in which an exemption under this section was authorized but not granted, the State, a
23 county, or a municipal corporation shall pay a refund to an individual described below who
24 receives an exemption under this section:

25 (i) to a disabled active duty service member, disabled veteran, or
26 surviving spouse for any State property tax paid;

27 (ii) to a disabled active duty service member, disabled veteran, or
28 surviving spouse for any county property tax paid; or

29 (iii) to a disabled active duty service member or disabled veteran for
30 any municipal corporation property tax paid.

31 (2) A disabled active duty service member or disabled veteran may apply
32 for a refund of State, county, and municipal corporation property tax paid on the dwelling
33 house while the exemption was available only if the disabled active duty service member
34 or disabled veteran applies for the exemption during the 3–year period beginning with the
35 calendar year in which the disabled active duty service member or disabled veteran initially
36 became eligible for an exemption under this section.

1 (3) A surviving spouse may apply for a refund of State, county, and
2 municipal corporation property tax paid on the dwelling house while the exemption was
3 available, only if the surviving spouse applies for the exemption during the 3-year period
4 beginning with the calendar year in which the surviving spouse initially became eligible for
5 an exemption under this section.

6 (h) (1) For the purposes of subsections (f) and (g) of this section, the State, a
7 county, or a municipal corporation shall pay to a disabled active duty service member,
8 disabled veteran, or surviving spouse interest on the amount of a refund if:

9 (i) the disabled active duty service member, disabled veteran, or
10 surviving spouse is eligible and has applied for the refund; and

11 (ii) the State, county, or municipal corporation fails to make the
12 refund within 60 days after the eligible disabled active duty service member, disabled
13 veteran, or surviving spouse has applied for the refund.

14 (2) If interest is payable under this subsection:

15 (i) the State shall pay interest at the rate the State charges on
16 overdue taxes;

17 (ii) the county or municipal corporation shall pay interest at the rate
18 the county or municipal corporation charges on overdue taxes; and

19 (iii) interest shall accrue from the date the refund application is filed
20 with the State, county, or municipal corporation.

21 (i) Each county shall include information on the property tax bill about the
22 availability of the property tax exemption for disabled active duty service members,
23 disabled veterans, and surviving spouses authorized under this section.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
25 1, 2022, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2022.