

# SENATE BILL 269

Q1  
SB 109/20 – B&T

(PRE-FILED)

1r1485  
CF HB 1311

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By: **Senator Ellis**

Requested: November 1, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 19, 2021

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Property Tax Exemption – Disabled Active Duty Service Members, Disabled**  
3 **Veterans, and Surviving Spouses – Refund**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State, a county, or a municipal corporation to pay a  
5 certain refund to a disabled active duty service member, disabled veteran, or  
6 surviving spouse under certain circumstances; requiring the State, a county, or a  
7 municipal corporation to pay interest on the refund under certain circumstances;  
8 providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to refunds for  
9 property taxes paid for dwelling houses owned by disabled active duty service  
10 members, disabled veterans, or surviving spouses.

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

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Tax – Property  
18 Section 7–208(g) and (h)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

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



1 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

2 **Article – Tax – Property**

3 7–208.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 A. is reasonably certain to continue for the life of the veteran;  
18 and

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

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

22 (4) “Dwelling house”:

23 (i) means real property that is:

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

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

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

29 (5) “Individual who died in the line of duty” means an individual who died

1 while in the active military, naval, or air service of the United States as a result of an injury  
2 or disease that is deemed under 38 U.S.C. § 105 to have been incurred in the line of duty.

3 (6) "Surviving spouse" means an individual who has not remarried and  
4 who:

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

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

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

10 (g) (1) **[In] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**  
11 **IN** the taxable years in which an exemption under this section was authorized but not  
12 granted, **[the governing body of] THE STATE**, a county, or a municipal corporation **[may**  
13 **authorize, by law,] SHALL PAY** a refund to an individual described below who receives an  
14 exemption under this section:

15 (i) **TO A DISABLED ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBER, DISABLED**  
16 **VETERAN, OR SURVIVING SPOUSE FOR ANY STATE PROPERTY TAX PAID;**

17 **(II)** to a disabled active duty service member, disabled veteran, or  
18 surviving spouse for any county property tax paid; or

19 **[(ii)] (III)** to a disabled active duty service member or disabled  
20 veteran for any municipal corporation property tax paid.

21 (2) **A DISABLED ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBER OR DISABLED**  
22 **VETERAN MAY APPLY FOR A REFUND OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL**  
23 **CORPORATION PROPERTY TAX PAID ON THE DWELLING HOUSE WHILE THE**  
24 **EXEMPTION WAS AVAILABLE ONLY IF THE DISABLED ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBER**  
25 **OR DISABLED VETERAN APPLIES FOR THE EXEMPTION DURING THE**  
26 **3-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING WITH THE CALENDAR YEAR IN WHICH THE DISABLED**  
27 **ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBER OR DISABLED VETERAN INITIALLY BECAME**  
28 **ELIGIBLE FOR AN EXEMPTION UNDER THIS SECTION.**

29 **(3)** A surviving spouse may apply for a refund of **STATE, county, AND**  
30 **MUNICIPAL CORPORATION** property tax paid on the dwelling house while the exemption  
31 was available, only if the surviving spouse applies for the exemption during the 3-year  
32 period beginning with the calendar year in which the surviving spouse initially became  
33 eligible for an exemption under this section.

34 (h) (1) For the purposes of subsections (f) and (g) of this section, **THE STATE,**

1 a county, or A municipal corporation shall pay to a disabled active duty service member,  
2 disabled veteran, or surviving spouse interest on the amount of a refund if:

3 (i) [the governing body has authorized the refund;

4 (ii)] the disabled active duty service member, disabled veteran, or  
5 surviving spouse is eligible and has applied for the refund; and

6 [(iii)] (II) the STATE, county, or municipal corporation fails to make  
7 the refund within 60 days after the eligible disabled active duty service member, disabled  
8 veteran, or surviving spouse has applied for the refund.

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

10 (i) THE STATE SHALL PAY INTEREST AT THE RATE THE STATE  
11 CHARGES ON OVERDUE TAXES;

12 (II) the county or municipal corporation shall pay interest at the rate  
13 the county or municipal corporation charges on overdue taxes; and

14 [(ii)] (III) interest shall accrue from the date the REFUND  
15 application is filed with the STATE, county, or municipal corporation.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to  
17 apply retroactively and shall be applied to and interpreted to affect all taxable years  
18 beginning after June 30, 2018.

19 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
20 1, 2021.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.