

# HOUSE BILL 963

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By: **Delegate Atterbeary**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Tax Sales – Data Collection – County Funding**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the State Department of Assessments and Taxation from  
4 disbursing certain funds to a county if the county has not provided certain  
5 information concerning its tax sales; altering the information the Department is  
6 required to obtain concerning county tax sales; and generally relating to county  
7 funding and data collection concerning tax sales.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Tax – Property

10 Section 14–879

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 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 14–879.

17 (a) (1) The Department shall conduct an annual survey of each county that  
18 conducts a tax sale under Part III of this subtitle to obtain the information specified in this  
19 section.

20 (2) Each county shall provide the Department all the information specified  
21 in this section on the form that the Department provides.

22 **(3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT DISBURSE ANY FUNDS TO A COUNTY**  
23 **UNDER THIS ARTICLE IF THE COUNTY HAS NOT PROVIDED ALL THE INFORMATION**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION.**

2 (b) (1) The Department shall obtain the data specified in [paragraph]  
3 **PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3)** of this subsection concerning the following categories of  
4 properties subject to sale under Part III of this subtitle:

5 (i) properties that are advertised for sale in the first notice required  
6 to be published under § 14–813 of this subtitle;

7 (ii) properties offered for sale;

8 (iii) properties offered for sale that are subject to liens for water or  
9 sewer services only;

10 (iv) properties offered for sale that are sold;

11 (v) properties for which there is no private purchaser and the county  
12 obtains the tax sale certificate in accordance with § 14–824 of this subtitle;

13 (vi) properties that are redeemed before foreclosure;

14 (vii) properties that are subject to foreclosure by the county; and

15 (viii) properties for which the right of redemption has been foreclosed  
16 by a private holder of a tax sale certificate.

17 (2) For each of the categories of properties specified in paragraph (1) of this  
18 subsection, the Department shall obtain the following data for the **SECOND IMMEDIATELY**  
19 preceding taxable year:

20 (i) the total number of properties;

21 (ii) the total lien amount for all properties; **AND**

22 (iii) the average lien amount for all properties]; and

23 (iv) for each of the data categories specified in items (i) through (iii)  
24 of this paragraph, disaggregated data for properties that are owned by a homeowner as  
25 defined in § 9–105 of this article].

26 **(3) FOR EACH OF THE CATEGORIES OF PROPERTIES SPECIFIED IN**  
27 **PARAGRAPH (1)(II), (IV), (VII), AND (VIII) OF THIS SUBSECTION, FOR THE SECOND**  
28 **IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING TAXABLE YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL OBTAIN**  
29 **DISAGGREGATED DATA FOR PROPERTIES THAT ARE OWNED BY A HOMEOWNER AS**  
30 **DEFINED IN § 9–105 OF THIS ARTICLE, INCLUDING:**

- 1                   **(I) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPERTIES;**  
2                   **(II) THE TOTAL LIEN AMOUNT FOR ALL PROPERTIES; AND**  
3                   **(III) THE AVERAGE LIEN AMOUNT FOR ALL PROPERTIES.**

4           (c) The Department shall obtain the following information concerning each  
5 county's tax sale process for the **SECOND IMMEDIATELY** preceding taxable year:

6                   (1) each type of charge that the county collects through its tax sale process,  
7 including property taxes, water and sewer charges, environmental charges, and any other  
8 local government charges;

9                   (2) the length of time the tax on a property is required to be overdue before  
10 the county begins the process to sell the property under Part III of this subtitle;

11                   (3) how frequently the county conducts a tax sale and the time of year when  
12 the tax sale occurs;

13                   (4) whether the county conducts tax sales on behalf of municipal  
14 corporations in the county and, if applicable, which municipal corporations;

15                   (5) the rate of interest the county charges on overdue property taxes under  
16 § 14-603 of this title;

17                   (6) the rate of redemption interest a property owner is required to pay to  
18 redeem a property after a tax sale under § 14-820 of this subtitle;

19                   (7) the minimum threshold amount of unpaid taxes on a residential  
20 property that will cause the county to put the property in tax sale under § 14-811(b) of this  
21 subtitle;

22                   (8) regarding bid balance money in excess of the amount required for the  
23 payment of taxes, interest, penalties, and costs of the sale of a property:

24                           (i) the total aggregate amount of all bid balance money held by the  
25 county in a special fund pending distribution to property owners under § 14-819(a) of this  
26 subtitle;

27                           (ii) the total aggregate amount of bid balance money distributed to  
28 property owners under § 14-819(a) of this subtitle; and

29                           (iii) the total aggregate amount of bid balance money transferred to  
30 the county under § 14-819(b) and (c) of this subtitle;

31                   (9) whether the county has established a County Tax Sale Ombudsman

1 under § 2–112(e) of this article; and

2 (10) a copy of the separate insert required to be mailed to property owners  
3 under § 14–812(b) of this subtitle.

4 (d) The Department shall obtain:

5 (1) the number of counties and municipal corporations that have withheld  
6 from sale under § 14–811(e) of this subtitle a dwelling owned by a homeowner who is  
7 low-income, at least 65 years old, or disabled;

8 (2) the eligibility criteria used by each county and municipal corporation to  
9 withhold a dwelling from sale under § 14–811(e) of this subtitle; and

10 (3) the number of dwellings withheld from sale by each county and  
11 municipal corporation under § 14–811(e) of this subtitle.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to  
13 apply only prospectively, and the Department may not withhold any funding from a county  
14 because the county failed to provide any information required on a tax sale survey  
15 conducted by the Department before the effective date of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
17 1, 2023.