

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 477  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Clark, *et al.*)

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Property Tax Credit - Public Safety Officer - Definition

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This bill alters the eligibility criteria of a local option property tax credit for specified public safety officers by adding volunteer emergency medical technicians to the definition of public safety officers that are eligible recipients of the property tax credit. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2019, and applies to taxable years beginning after June 30, 2019.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** County and municipal property tax revenues may decrease beginning in FY 2020 to the extent that local jurisdictions grant the property tax credit, and the changes to existing eligibility requirements result in additional individuals becoming eligible for the property tax credit. Local expenditures are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 686 of 2017 authorized county and municipal governments to grant a property tax credit for dwellings owned by specified public safety officers. Chapter 654 of 2018 altered the calculation of the property tax credit by specifying that the tax credit may not exceed the lesser of \$2,500 or the amount of property tax imposed on the dwelling.

**Background:** Baltimore City provides up to a \$2,500 property tax credit for public safety officers who live and own a residence in the city.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** County and municipal property tax revenues may decrease beginning in fiscal 2020, to the extent that local jurisdictions grant the property tax credit, and the changes to existing eligibility requirements result in additional individuals becoming eligible for the property tax credit. Depending on the jurisdiction, the revenue decrease may be significant. The amount of the revenue decrease depends on the number of eligible homeowners, the value of residential property tax assessments, and local property tax rates.

The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) does not have data on the number of volunteer emergency medical technicians in the State. However, as a point of reference, the MIEMSS annual report for fiscal 2018 indicates that there are 15,485 emergency medical technicians, 587 cardiac rescue technicians, and 3,278 paramedics licensed in the State. These numbers include paid employees and volunteers.

As a point of reference, **Exhibit 1** shows the average residential property tax assessments and property tax rates for each county. Additional information on local property tax rates and property assessments can be found in Chapters 4 and 5 of the [Overview of Maryland Local Governments report](#). A copy of the report can be found on the Department of Legislative Services website.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 721 of 2018 received a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** SB 292 (Senator Bailey, *et al.*) - Budget and Taxation.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City; Worcester County; Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems; State Department of Assessments and Taxation; Department of Legislative Services

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md/hlb

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Residential Property Tax Assessments and Property Tax Rates**

County	Average Total Value	Average County Homestead Credit	FY 2019 Property Tax Rate
Allegany	\$93,790	\$7,076	\$0.9750
Anne Arundel	292,662	89,029	0.9020
Baltimore City	147,040	32,192	2.2480
Baltimore	252,878	17,858	1.1000
Calvert	322,005	13,457	0.9370
Caroline	157,968	9,533	0.9800
Carroll	300,227	9,915	1.0180
Cecil	268,934	8,735	1.0414
Charles	246,580	11,591	1.2050
Dorchester	169,423	19,804	1.0000
Frederick	277,837	11,954	1.0600
Garrett	119,812	16,430	0.9899
Harford	261,956	8,873	1.0420
Howard	407,783	20,309	1.1900
Kent	229,531	37,553	1.0220
Montgomery	403,274	25,992	0.9927
Prince George's	224,692	54,214	1.3740
Queen Anne's	350,385	17,317	0.8471
St. Mary's	277,996	33,922	0.8478
Somerset	94,579	9,333	1.0000
Talbot	257,557	136,239	0.6061
Washington	217,040	10,663	0.9480
Wicomico	162,400	9,115	0.9398
Worcester	228,907	25,706	0.8350

Source: State Department of Assessments and Taxation

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