

Q2
HB 416/25 – W&M

6lr1014

Bill No.: _____

Drafted by: Breighner

Requested: _____

Committee: _____

By: **Prince George’s County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

**Property Taxes – Special Rate for Vacant and Abandoned Property – Charter
County Tax Limitation**

PG 408–26

FOR the purpose of authorizing the governing body of a county to set a special property tax rate on certain vacant and abandoned property that exceeds any limit in the county charter on the property tax rate or property tax revenues; authorizing the governing body of a county to distribute to the general fund of the county the property tax revenue attributable to the special rate on certain vacant and abandoned property that exceeds any limit in the county charter on the property tax rate or property tax revenues; and generally relating to a special property tax rate for vacant and abandoned property.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article - Tax - Property
Section 6–302(a) and (b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Tax – Property

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Section 6–302(c)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Tax – Property

6–302.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section and after complying with § 6–305 of this subtitle, in each year after the date of finality and before the following June 20, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of each county annually shall set the tax rate for the next taxable year on all assessments of property subject to that county’s property tax.

(b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section and §§ 6–305 and 6–306 of this subtitle:

(i) there shall be a single county property tax rate for all real property subject to county property tax except for operating real property described in § 8–109(c) of this article; and

(ii) the county tax rate applicable to personal property and the operating real property described in § 8–109(c) of this article shall be no more than 2.5 times the rate for real property.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not affect a special rate prevailing in a taxing district or part of a county.

(c) (1) The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county may set a special rate for a vacant lot or improved property cited as vacant and unfit for habitation or other authorized use on a housing or building violation notice.

(2) **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF A COUNTY CHARTER THAT PLACES A LIMIT ON THE COUNTY’S PROPERTY TAX RATE OR REVENUES, IN THE**

EXERCISE OF THE AUTHORITY GRANTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY MAY:

(I) 1. SET A SPECIAL RATE THAT RESULTS IN A HIGHER PROPERTY TAX RATE THAN THE RATE AUTHORIZED UNDER THE COUNTY’S CHARTER; OR

2. COLLECT MORE PROPERTY TAX REVENUES THAN THE REVENUES AUTHORIZED UNDER THE COUNTY’S CHARTER; AND

(II) DISTRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE COUNTY THE PROPERTY TAX REVENUE COLLECTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION THAT EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE IF THE COUNTY CHARTER LIMITATION HAD APPLIED.

(3) On or before December 1 each year, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City or the governing body of a county that enacts a special rate under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall report to the Department of Housing and Community Development and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on:

- (i) the special rate set under paragraph (1) of this subsection;
- (ii) the number of properties to which the special rate applies;
- (iii) the revenue change resulting from the special rate;
- (iv) the use of the revenue from the special rate; and

(v) whether properties subject to the special rate are viable for adaptive reuse, as defined in § 1–102 of the Housing and Community Development Article, and plans to convert viable properties.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2026, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after June 30, 2026.