

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 18

Bill No. 100-26

Mr. Michael Ertel, Chairman
By Request of County Executive
&
Mr. Todd K. Crandell, Councilman

By the County Council, October 5, 2026

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Personal Property Tax Credits for Eligible Maritime Manufacturing Property

FOR the purpose of creating a personal property tax credit for eligible maritime manufacturing property; providing for the amount and length of the tax credit; requiring certain reporting; defining certain terms; and generally relating to personal property tax credits.

BY adding

Section 11-2-115
Article 11 – Taxation
Title 2 – Ad Valorem Taxes
Subtitle 1 – In General
Baltimore County Code, 2015

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

WHEREAS, in December of 2025, the Baltimore County Council passed and the County Executive approved real and personal property tax credits to promote the development of marine terminals that handle container cargo; and

WHEREAS, in passing Bill 88-25, the County Council found that marine terminals generate significant economic benefits, including by creating jobs and attracting businesses that benefit from the logistics and supply chain benefits of being located near a container terminal; and

WHEREAS, marine terminals (“ports”) also support maritime manufacturing because some manufacturing processes require access to, or location in, marine waters due to the nature of the activity as well as attract supporting businesses and suppliers to the region that benefit from the logistics and supply chain gained by their proximity to a port; and

WHEREAS, Baltimore County has a rich history of marine manufacturing dating back to the Colonial era; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, the Sparrows Point Shipyard built ships for the U.S. Maritime Commission’s Emergency Shipbuilding Program including the well-known Liberty ships and helped to rebuild the British Merchant Navy, and at the height of World War II, Bethlehem Steel employed approximately 36,000 people in its Sparrow Point facilities; and

WHEREAS, the development of a port in Eastern Baltimore County provides the County with a unique opportunity to reclaim the County’s historical place in maritime manufacturing which will generate significant economic benefits, including by creating direct, high-paying jobs and inducing capital investment; and

WHEREAS, maritime manufacturing attracts significant federal and private funding to the County and the state which supports additional economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, maritime manufacturing sites can also be hubs for innovation through investments in research and development that benefit the County and the nation as a whole since many of the maritime manufacturing processes relate to the United States Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, innovations in maritime manufacturing provide significant local opportunities for partnerships with students in the County's public schools, community colleges, and the State's universities; and

WHEREAS, the Baltimore County Council finds that promoting the potential for development of maritime manufacturing sites in the County and to yield the potential for the significant economic benefits that follow such operations; and

WHEREAS, the Council now proposes to create a personal property tax credit for certain property located in a foreign trade zone, using the authority in § 9-231 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland; now, therefore

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE
2 COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the laws of Baltimore County shall read as follows:

3
4 ARTICLE 11 – TAXATION

5 Title 2 – Ad Valorem Taxes

6 Subtitle 1 – In General
7

8 § 11-2-115. MARITIME MANUFACTURING PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.

9 (A) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
10 INDICATED.

(1) “ELIGIBLE MARITIME MANUFACTURING PROPERTY” MEANS THE FOLLOWING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, NECESSARY FOR THE SAFE, SECURE, AND EFFICIENT MANUFACTURING OF MARITIME GOODS:

(I) GENERAL CRANES, SHIP TO SHORE CRANES, CRANES TO LOAD AND UNLOAD COMPONENTS USED IN THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS, MOBILE CRANES, GANTRY CRANES, INCLUDING RAIL-MOUNTED GANTRY CRANES TO LOAD AND UNLOAD COMPONENTS FROM RAILCARS WITHIN THE MARITIME SITE, AND HARBOR CRANES;

(II) MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT, MANNED, CONTROLLED, AND AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES, ASSOCIATED TRAILERS, SPMT SYSTEMS AND SIMILAR TRANSPORTERS, RAILCARS AND FORKLIFTS THAT MAY BE USED TO MOVE MANUFACTURING COMPONENTS WITHIN THE MARITIME SITE, AND OTHER SPECIALIZED MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT;

(III) WATERFRONT INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT, DRY DOCKS, FLOATING DRY DOCKS AND BARGES, AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE ASSOCIATED WITH THE WATERFRONT;

(IV) SPECIALIZED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVERS, COMPUTERS, AND HARDWARE ASSOCIATED WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RELATED TO MARITIME MANUFACTURING;

(V) SOFTWARE USED TO ENABLE AND CONTROL THE MANUFACTURING OF MARITIME GOODS;

1 (VI) MILLS, JIGS, FIXTURES, LATHES, SPECIALIZED VEHICLES,
2 AND EQUIPMENT THAT IS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE MARITIME
3 MANUFACTURING;

4 (VII) SIGNAGE;

5 (VIII) WELDING SYSTEMS, WHETHER VERTICAL,
6 HORIZONTAL, OR OTHERWISE, BLAST AND PAINT OR COAT SYSTEMS, AND
7 RELEVANT TOOLINGS, SUCH AS HAND TOOLS AND CONSUMABLES; AND

8 (IX) OTHER MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT THAT IS RELATED
9 TO MARITIME MANUFACTURING.

10 (2) "FOREIGN TRADE ZONE" MEANS THE ENTIRE AREA DESIGNATED
11 AS FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE NO. 74 UNDER FEDERAL LAW.

12 (3) "MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS" MEANS ACTIVITIES TO
13 SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF MARITIME GOODS AND
14 SERVICES.

15 (B) (1) THERE IS A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT OF 100% AGAINST ALL
16 COUNTY PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES IMPOSED ON ELIGIBLE MARITIME
17 MANUFACTURING PROPERTY USED IN CONNECTION WITH MANUFACTURING
18 OPERATIONS AT A MARITIME SITE IN THE FOREIGN TRADE ZONE, PURSUANT TO
19 § 9-231 OF THE TAX-PROPERTY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF
20 MARYLAND.

21 (2) A TAXPAYER CLAIMING A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS
22 SUBSECTION SHALL PROVIDE TO THE DIRECTOR, UPON REQUEST, AN ITEMIZED

1 LIST OF THE ELIGIBLE MARITIME MANUFACTURING PROPERTY FOR WHICH THE
2 TAXPAYER CLAIMS IS SUBJECT TO THE CREDIT.

3 (3) THE ITEMIZED LIST SUBMITTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IS
4 SUBJECT TO TITLE 13, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE TAX-GENERAL ARTICLE AND TITLE 4,
5 SUBTITLE 3 OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE
6 OF MARYLAND.

7 (C) A PROPERTY TAX CREDIT GRANTED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
8 SECTION SHALL BE FOR 30 YEARS FROM THE DATE THAT A TAXPAYER FIRST
9 CLAIMS A TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION.

10 (D) (1) WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR
11 A TAX CREDIT UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE APPLICANT AND
12 THE COUNTY SHALL BEGIN A NEGOTIATION, IN GOOD FAITH, TO ENTER INTO A
13 REPORTING AGREEMENT.

14 (2) THE TAX CREDIT MAY NOT BE CLAIMED UNTIL AFTER A
15 REPORTING AGREEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED AND EXECUTED BY THE COUNTY
16 AND THE APPLICANT FOR THE TAX CREDIT.

17 (3) A REPORTING AGREEMENT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL
18 INCLUDE:

19 (I) AT LEAST ONE DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING UPDATE TO
20 BE PROVIDED TO THE COUNTY AT LEAST ONE YEAR PRIOR TO THE TAX YEAR
21 THE APPLICANT ANTICIPATES THE MARITIME MANUFACTURING SITE TO BE
22 OPERATIONAL;

1 (II) ANY EQUIPMENT NOT DESIGNATED IN THIS SECTION
2 THAT MAY BE ELIGIBLE MARITIME MANUFACTURING PROPERTY; AND
3 (III) A YEARLY REPORT REQUIREMENT, FOLLOWING
4 COMMENCEMENT OF THE TAX CREDIT, ON THE VALUATION OF ALL PERSONAL
5 PROPERTY FOR WHICH A CREDIT IS GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION AND THE
6 APPLICANT'S TAX SAVINGS UNDER THIS SECTION.
7

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by
9 the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect 14 days from the
10 date of its enactment.