

(b) Provided, however, that for municipal taxation in the City of Frederick such stock in business shall be assessed at seventy-five per centum (75%) of such fair average value for the twelve months preceding the date of finality.

(c) For county taxation in Washington County the amount of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) in value of the stock in trade, or one-quarter of the value of all the stock in trade, whichever is the greater figure, shall be entirely exempt from assessment and taxation; and the remainder, if any, then shall be assessed and taxed at seventy-five per centum (75%) of such fair average value for the twelve months preceding the date of finality.

(d) For the purpose of county taxation in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties and the City of Annapolis, such stock in business shall be assessed at sixty per centum (60%) of such fair average value for the twelve months preceding the date of finality.

(e) Provided further, however, that any person, firm or corporation who shall take advantage of the provisions of this section shall not be allowed the exemption in the percentage of the total assessed valuation which is provided by Section 8, subsection (24) of this article.

22 23. For the purpose of the assessment and collection [or] of ordinary taxes on distilled spirits, it is hereby made the duty of each distiller, and of every owner or proprietor of a bonded or other warehouse, in which distilled spirits are stored and of every person or corporation having custody of such spirits to make report to the State Tax Commission on or before the fifteenth day of March in each and every year of all the distilled spirits on hand as of the first day of January preceding, and the tax for the ensuing year from the said first day of January shall be levied and paid on the amount of distilled spirits so in hand as representing the taxable distilled spirits for such year [;], and said spirits shall be valued and assessed at fair value. The term fair value as used in this section shall mean cost or market value, whichever is lower, without any allowance for inflation. Provided, however, that the same distilled spirits shall not be taxed twice for the same year.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That no person, firm or corporation shall be subject to criminal prosecution or criminal penalties because of any violation of the provisions of these sections which occurred prior to the passage of this Act.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That if any one or more sections, clauses, sentences, words or parts of this Act shall for any reason be questioned in any court, and shall be adjudged unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remaining provisions hereof but shall be confined in its operation to the specific provisions so held unconstitutional or invalid, and the inapplicability or invalidity of any section, clause or provision of this Act in any one or more instances shall not be taken to affect or prejudice in any way its applicability or validity in any other instance.