

256A.

(a) *Every person of the age of 65 years or over (1) who has been a bona fide resident of Wicomico County for the preceding five years, (2) whose total gross income during the ~~particular year does~~ TWELVE MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE OF APPLICATION DID not exceed twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2500) from all sources, (3) who has legal or beneficial title to real property located in Wicomico County, and (4) who ~~has resided thereon for the preceding five years~~ and makes that real property his or her permanent home, is entitled to have the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2500) deducted from the assessed valuation of that property for the purpose of county real estate taxes levied against the property by Wicomico County. If the taxable real estate is owned as tenants by the entirety, only one such exemption shall be allowed. Also, such exemption shall be allowed (1) only if the combined gross income of the tenants by the entirety does not exceed the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2500) for the ~~year~~ TWELVE MONTHS prior to that for which the application is made; and (2) only if one or both the tenants by the entirety are 65 years of age or over; and it is further provided that only one such exemption shall be allowed on any real estate taxable to tenants by the entirety.*

(B) ANYTHING HEREIN TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING, ANY PERSON OR ANY TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY WHOSE COMBINED GROSS ASSETS, INCLUDING THE ASSESSED VALUE OF THE REAL PROPERTY FOR WHICH SAID DEDUCTION IS SOUGHT, EXCEED TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) SHALL BE INELIGIBLE FOR ANY DEDUCTION UNDER THIS SECTION.

~~(b)~~ (C) *Any person and any tenants by the entirety seeking to have his or their residential property exempt from the taxation as provided in this section shall first make application to the Board of County Commissioners of Wicomico County or to a designated agent of the Board, in writing, ON A DETAILED FORM TO BE PRESCRIBED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, setting forth his, her or their names, ages, place of residence, total gross income from all sources for the ~~next preceding calendar year~~, TWELVE MONTHS PRECEDING THE DATE OF APPLICATION, COMBINED GROSS ASSETS, INCLUDING THE REAL PROPERTY FOR WHICH DEDUCTION IS SOUGHT, total consecutive years of residence in Wicomico County immediately preceding the date of the application, and the source of ownership of the residential property for which a tax exemption is sought. Any application for a tax exemption under the provisions of this section shall be submitted to the County Commissioners at least 30 days prior to the date of finality for the particular tax year. FOR WHICH EXEMPTION IS SOUGHT. The application shall be accompanied by an affidavit of the person OR PERSONS submitting the application, certifying to the truth of the contents of the application. The County Commissioners or their designated agent shall read and consider each of these applications and shall approve or disapprove each application prior to the date of finality, depending upon whether it does or does not conform to the requirements of this section. A tax exemption granted under this section applies only to the particular year for which application was made as herein required.*