

*the chief clerk or prothonotary of the court by which said security was taken; and provided further that the court is satisfied of the truth of the facts set forth in such petition and of the sufficiency of such security.*

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1966.*

Approved May 6, 1966.

---

CHAPTER 576

(Senate Bill 152)

AN ACT to repeal Sections 12E and 12F of Article 81 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Revenue and Taxes", subtitle "What Shall Be Taxed and Where", and to enact a new Section 12E in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the section so repealed, to authorize counties and municipalities in the State to provide for tax credits for real property taxes based upon property determined to be an "open space" or "open area" as defined by Section 357A of Article 66C of the Code; to fix the amount of the tax credit; to permit establishment of categories of lands within which credits will be uniform and to provide for the procedure for determining the property to which this credit is applicable; to provide for the effect of determinations of such land under this Act in condemnation proceedings against such lands; and providing generally for tax credits for open space or open area property in this State.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Sections 12E and 12F of Article 81 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1965 Replacement Volume), title "Revenue and Taxes", subtitle "What Shall Be Taxed and Where", be and they are hereby repealed; and that a new Section 12E be and it is hereby enacted in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the sections so repealed, and to read as follows:*

*12E.*

*(a) This section, to the exclusion of any other public general law and any public local law except those public local laws enacted pursuant to Chapters 669 and 670 of the Acts of the Regular Session of 1965, and those in which this section is specifically referred to, controls and regulates exclusively the granting of any special tax credit based upon land, exclusive of any improvements thereon, which is determined to be an "open space" or "open area" as defined by subsection (b) of Section 357A of Article 66C, and for which the owner or a predecessor in title has permanently conveyed or assigned to the state, local or federal government, or The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, an easement or other interests in the land which limits the use thereof in such manner as to preserve its natural open character in perpetuity.*

*(b) The valuation and assessment of all such property shall be made and accomplished in all respects as other real and personal property in the particular subdivision.*