

~~(IV)--MULTIPLYING-THIS-DIFFERENCE,-PROVIDED IT-IS-A-POSITIVE-NUMBER,-BY-THE-APPLICABLE-COUNTY,-BALTIMORE CITY,-OR-MUNICIPAL-TAX-RATE-FOR-THIS-YEAR.-THE-PRODUCT-OF THIS-CALCULATION--SHALL-BE-THE-AMOUNT-OF-THE-TAX-CREDIT-FOR THE-1983-1984-TAXABLE-YEAR.~~

(b) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated:

(2) "Legal interest" means an estate in the dwelling whether as sole owner, joint tenant, tenant in common, tenant by the entirety, or through membership in a cooperative, and includes a purchaser pursuant to a land installment contract, as defined by § 10-101(b) of the Real Property Article, and a life estate.

(3) "Homeowner" means a person who by July 1 of the taxable year for which the real property tax exemption is to be allowed actually resides in a dwelling in which the person has a legal interest.

(4) "Dwelling" means the dwelling house of one or more homeowners and the lot or curtilage where it is erected, which is used as the principal residence of that homeowner, or homeowners. A dwelling includes a condominium parcel occupied by its owner. It also includes an apartment in a cooperative apartment corporation occupied by the person having a legal interest in the apartment. It also includes a portion of real property used other than primarily for residential purposes, if the property is used as a principal residence by the person having a legal interest for that property. In this case, the Department of Assessments and Taxation shall apportion the total property assessment between that portion of the property used for residential purposes and that portion of the property used other than for residential purposes. A dwelling may not be deemed a principal residence which is not actually occupied or expected to be actually occupied by the homeowner or homeowners for more than six months of a 12-month period beginning with the date of finality. A homeowner, otherwise eligible, may qualify for the credit if he does not actually reside in the dwelling the required time period because of illness or need of special care. A homeowner or homeowners may claim credit in only one dwelling.

(5) "TAXABLE ASSESSMENT" MEANS THE ASSESSMENT UPON WHICH THE LOCAL TAX RATE WAS LEVIED IN THE PRECEDING TAXABLE YEAR AFTER ANY TAX CREDIT CALCULATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

(6) "ASSESSMENT" MEANS THE ASSESSED VALUE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION FOR THE CURRENT TAX YEAR.