[(9)] (8)   Somerset County;

[(10)] (9) Talbot County;

[(11)] (10) Washington County; and

[(12)] (11) Wicomico County.

9–303.

(b)   Before Calvert County, Charles County, [Harford County,] or St. Mary's County imposes a hotel rental tax, the governing body of the county shall hold a public hearing, which:

(1)   Shall be advertised twice by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least 10 days before the hearing; and

(2)   May not be part of the annual budget hearing.

9–304.

(b)   An authorized county may not set a hotel rental tax rate that exceeds:

(1)   3% in a code county;

(2)   5% in Calvert County;

(3)   3% in Cecil County;

(4)   5% in Charles County;

(5)   4% in Dorchester County;

(6)   5% in Garrett County;

[(7) 3% in Harford County;]

[(8)] (7)   5% in St. Mary's County;

[(9)] (8)   3% in Somerset County;

[(10)] (9) 3% in Talbot County;

[(11)] (10)   3% in Washington County; and

[(12)] (11)   5% in Wicomico County.

9–305.

[(c) The governing body of Harford County may provide, by law, a tax exemption for transient charges paid by a nonprofit charitable organization to a hotel to provide temporary shelter for individuals who are in need as a result of misfortune.]