

county or Baltimore City adopts such a tax credit program, the minimum tax credit shall equal 50% of the assessed value of the dwelling or \$4,000, whichever is the lesser amount, multiplied by the applicable county or Baltimore City tax rate. In order to qualify for the tax credit a homeowner shall have not attained the age of 60 as of July 1 of the taxable year for which the credit is sought; shall receive benefits as a result of a finding of permanent and total disability under the Social Security Act, or under the Railroad Retirement Act, or under the provisions of federal acts for members of the armed forces of the United States; and shall have a combined gross income not in excess of \$5,000 for the calendar year immediately preceding the taxable year for which credit is sought. Application for this tax credit shall be as provided in § 49C of this article.

(b) As used in this section, the following words shall have the meanings herein specified:

(1) "Homeowner" means every person who actually resides in a dwelling in which such person has a legal interest, including any life estate, whether as sole owner, joint tenant in common, or tenant by the entirety.

(2) "Gross income" means total gross income from all sources, including but not limited to gifts, and whether or not included in the definitions of gross income for federal or State income tax purposes, but "gross income" does not include the amount of old age, survivors, or disability benefits received under the Social Security Act, as amended, or under the Railroad Retirement Act, as amended.

(3) "Combined gross income" means the combined gross income of all homeowners, if more than one, and all persons actually residing in the same dwelling, except persons whose contributions, reasonably apportionable towards the cost of upkeep, maintenance and repair of the dwelling, are in the form of fixed rental charges.

(4) "Dwelling" means the dwelling house of one or more homeowners and the lot or curtilage where the same is erected, which is used as the principal residence of such homeowner or homeowners. No dwelling shall be deemed a principal residence which is not actually occupied or expected to be actually occupied by such homeowner or homeowners for more than six months of some twelve-month period including the date of application for credit. A homeowner or homeowners may claim credit on only one such dwelling. The administrative unit or official administering the program may qualify a homeowner otherwise eligible for the tax credit if he does not actually reside in the dwelling the required time period for reason of illness or need of special care. When any property which is owned by a person who is entitled to a tax credit under this section is sold to