

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 219 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY RADER, BROOKS, HILL-EVANS, CIRESI, R. BROWN,  
NEILSON, JOZWIAK, KAUFFMAN, MOUL, ZIMMERMAN, WEBSTER, FREEMAN  
AND DRISCOLL, JANUARY 25, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, JANUARY 25, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 27, 2006 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1873,  
2 No.1), entitled "An act providing for taxation by school  
3 districts, for the State funds formula, for tax relief in  
4 first class cities, for school district choice and voter  
5 participation, for other school district options and for a  
6 task force on school cost reduction; making an appropriation;  
7 prohibiting prior authorized taxation; providing for  
8 installment payment of taxes; restricting the power of  
9 certain school districts to levy, assess and collect taxes;  
10 and making related repeals," in senior citizens property tax  
11 and rent rebate assistance, further providing for definitions  
12 and for property tax and rent rebate.

13 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
14 hereby enacts as follows:

15 Section 1. The definition of "income" in section 1303 of the  
16 act of June 27, 2006 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1873, No.1), known as  
17 the Taxpayer Relief Act, is amended to read:

18 Section 1303. Definitions.

19 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
20 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
21 context clearly indicates otherwise:

22 \* \* \*

1 "Income." All income from whatever source derived,  
2 including, but not limited to:

3 (1) Salaries, wages, bonuses, commissions, income from  
4 self-employment, alimony, support money, cash public  
5 assistance and relief.

6 (2) The gross amount of any pensions or annuities,  
7 including railroad retirement benefits for calendar years  
8 prior to 1999 and 50% of railroad retirement benefits for  
9 calendar years 1999 and thereafter.

10 (3) (i) All benefits received under the Social Security  
11 Act (49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. § 301 et seq.), except  
12 Medicare benefits, for calendar years prior to 1999, and  
13 50% of all benefits received under the Social Security  
14 Act, except Medicare benefits, for calendar years 1999  
15 and thereafter.

16 (ii) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act  
17 to the contrary, persons who, as of December 31, 2012,  
18 are eligible for the property tax or rent rebate shall  
19 remain eligible if the household income limit is exceeded  
20 due solely to a Social Security cost-of-living  
21 adjustment.

22 (iii) Eligibility in the property tax and rent  
23 rebate program pursuant to subparagraph (ii) shall expire  
24 on December 31, [2016] 2022.

25 (4) All benefits received under State unemployment  
26 insurance laws.

27 (5) All interest received from the Federal or any state  
28 government or any instrumentality or political subdivision  
29 thereof.

30 (6) Realized capital gains and rentals.

1 (7) Workers' compensation.

2 (8) The gross amount of loss of time insurance benefits,  
3 life insurance benefits and proceeds, except the first \$5,000  
4 of the total of death benefit payments.

5 (9) Gifts of cash or property, other than transfers by  
6 gift between members of a household, in excess of a total  
7 value of \$300.

8 The term does not include surplus food or other relief in kind  
9 supplied by a governmental agency, property tax or rent rebate,  
10 inflation dividend, Federal veterans' disability payments or  
11 State veterans' benefits.

12 \* \* \*

13 Section 2. Section 1304(a)(2) and (3) of the act are amended  
14 to read:

15 Section 1304. Property tax; and rent rebate.

16 (a) Schedule of rebates.--

17 \* \* \*

18 (2) The following apply:

19 (i) The base amount of any claim for property tax  
20 rebate for real property taxes due and payable during  
21 calendar year 2006 and thereafter shall be determined in  
22 accordance with the following schedule:

Amount of Real Property Taxes	
Household Income	Allowed as Rebate
\$ 0 - \$ 8,000	\$650
8,001 - 15,000	500
15,001 - 18,000	300
[18,001 -	250
35,000] 18,001 -	
40,000	

(ii) The supplemental amount for a claimant with a household income equal to or less than \$30,000 and an eligible claim for property tax rebate for real property taxes due and payable during the calendar year preceding the first year in which a payment under section 505(b) is made and each year thereafter and whose real property taxes exceed 15% of the claimant's household income shall be equal to 50% of the base amount determined under subparagraph (i). A claimant who is a resident of a city of the first class, a city of the second class A or a school district of the first class A shall be ineligible for the supplemental amount under this subparagraph.

(3) The amount of any claim for rent rebate in lieu of property taxes for rent due and payable during calendar year 2006 and thereafter shall be determined in accordance with the following:

Amount of Rent Rebate in Lieu of Property Taxes	
Household Income	Allowed as Rebate
\$ 0 - \$ 8,000	\$650
8,001 - [15,000] 20,000	500

\* \* \*

Section 3. The amendment of the definition of "income" in section 1303 of the act shall apply retroactively to December 31, 2016.

Section 4. This act shall take effect as follows:

(1) The amendment of section 1304(a)(2) and (3) of the act shall take effect in 60 days.

(2) The remainder of this act shall take effect

1 immediately.