

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2890 Session of  
1990

INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN, McCALL, MRKONIC, COHEN, PERZEL,  
VAN HORNE, BELFANTI, LESCOVITZ, E. Z. TAYLOR, NAHILL,  
PETRONE, FARMER, MICHLOVIC, BISHOP, OLASZ, HARPER, KASUNIC,  
RYBAK, MELIO AND PISTELLA, SEPTEMBER 25, 1990

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND AGING, SEPTEMBER 25, 1990

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 11, 1971 (P.L.104, No.3), entitled, as  
2 amended, "An act providing property tax or rent rebate and  
3 inflation dividends to certain senior citizens, widows,  
4 widowers and permanently disabled persons with limited  
5 incomes; establishing uniform standards and qualifications  
6 for eligibility to receive rebates and dividends; providing  
7 for transportation assistance grants and grants to area  
8 agencies on aging for services to older persons; and imposing  
9 duties upon the Department of Revenue," extending the act to  
10 include certain divorced persons.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. The title and section 2 of the act of March 11,  
14 1971 (P.L.104, No.3), known as the Senior Citizens Rebate and  
15 Assistance Act, reenacted and amended December 21, 1979  
16 (P.L.570, No.131) and amended March 10, 1982 (P.L.177, No.56),  
17 are amended to read:

AN ACT

18  
19 Providing property tax or rent rebate and inflation dividends to  
20 certain senior citizens, widows, widowers, divorced persons  
21 and permanently disabled persons with limited incomes;

1 establishing uniform standards and qualifications for  
2 eligibility to receive rebates and dividends; providing for  
3 transportation assistance grants and grants to area agencies  
4 on aging for services to older persons; and imposing duties  
5 upon the Department of Revenue.

6 Section 2. Declaration of Policy.--In recognition of the  
7 severe economic plight of certain senior citizens, widows,  
8 widowers, divorced persons and permanently disabled persons who  
9 are real property owners or renters with fixed and limited  
10 incomes who are faced with rising living costs and constantly  
11 increasing tax and inflation cost burdens which threaten their  
12 homesteads and self-sufficiency, the General Assembly, pursuant  
13 to the mandates of the Constitutional Convention of 1968,  
14 considers it to be a matter of sound public policy to make  
15 special provisions for property tax rebates or rent rebates in  
16 lieu of property taxes and inflation dividends to that class of  
17 senior citizens, widows, widowers and permanently disabled  
18 persons who are real property taxpayers or renters who are  
19 without adequate means of support to enable them to remain in  
20 peaceable possession of their homes and relieving their economic  
21 burden and to provide transportation assistance grants and to  
22 provide grants to area agencies on aging for services to older  
23 persons.

24 Section 2. Section 3(7) of the act, amended March 10, 1982  
25 (P.L.177, No.56), is amended and the section is amended by  
26 adding definitions to read:

27 Section 3. Definitions.--As used in this act:

28 \* \* \*

29 (7) "Claimant" means a person who files a claim for property  
30 tax rebate or rent rebate in lieu of property taxes and

1 inflation dividend and:

2 (i) was sixty-five years of age or over, or whose spouse (if  
3 a member of the household) was sixty-five years of age or over,  
4 during a calendar year in which real property taxes, rent and  
5 inflation costs were due and payable [or];

6 (ii) was a widow or widower and was fifty years of age or  
7 over during a calendar year or part thereof in which real  
8 property taxes, rent and inflation costs were due and payable[,  
9 or];

10 (iii) was a divorced person and was sixty years of age or  
11 over during a calendar year or part thereof in which real  
12 property taxes, rent and inflation costs were due and payable;  
13 or

14 (iv) was a permanently disabled person eighteen years of age  
15 or over during a calendar year or part thereof in which real  
16 property taxes, rent and inflation costs were due and payable.  
17 [For the purposes of this act the term "widow" or "widower"  
18 shall mean the surviving wife or the surviving husband, as the  
19 case may be, of a deceased individual and who has not remarried  
20 except as provided in subsection (c) and (d) of section 4 of  
21 this act. For the purposes of this act the term "permanently  
22 disabled person" shall mean a person who is unable to engage in  
23 any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically  
24 determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected  
25 to continue indefinitely, except as provided in subsection (c)  
26 and (d) of section 4 of this act.]

27 \* \* \*

28 (10) "Widow" or "widower" means the surviving unremarried  
29 wife or the surviving unremarried husband, as the case may be,  
30 of a deceased individual, except as provided in subsections (c)

1 and (d) of section 4.

2 (11) "Divorced person" means a formerly married person whose  
3 marriage was terminated by court order, who has not remarried  
4 and whose sole source of income is from the former spouse under  
5 an agreement or court order relating to the divorce, except as  
6 provided in subsections (c) and (d) of section 4.

7 (12) "Permanently disabled persons" means a person who is  
8 unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason  
9 of a medically determinable physical or mental impairment which  
10 can be expected to continue indefinitely, except as provided in  
11 subsections (c) and (d) of section 4.

12 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.