
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 494 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GOODMAN, BARRAR, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BROWNLEE,
CARROLL, DEASY, DeLUCA, FREEMAN, GIBBONS, JAMES, KINSEY,
KORTZ, MACKENZIE, MATZIE, MURT, O'BRIEN, RAVENSTAHL,
SABATINA, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, SIMS, SNYDER, THOMAS AND
YOUNGBLOOD, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

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 the
12 definition of "income."

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, amended October 22, 2014 (P.L.2555,
18 No.156), is amended to read:

19 Section 1303. Definitions.

20 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
21 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 * * *

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

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

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

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

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

24 (iii) Eligibility in the property tax and rent
25 rebate program under subparagraph (ii) shall expire on
26 December 31, 2016.

27 (4) All benefits received under State unemployment
28 insurance laws and veterans' disability payments.

29 (5) All interest received from the Federal or any state
30 government or any instrumentality or political subdivision

1 thereof.

2 (6) Realized capital gains and rentals.

3 (7) Workers' compensation.

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

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

10 The term does not include surplus food or other relief in kind
11 supplied by a governmental agency, property tax or rent rebate
12 or inflation dividend[.] or any veterans' benefits, including
13 veterans' disability payments or service-connected pension
14 benefits, from whatever source.

15 * * *

16 Section 2. This act shall apply to claims filed for calendar
17 year 2015 and each year thereafter.

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.