

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 990 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY SCHWEYER, DEAN, SAMUELSON, FREEMAN, PICKETT,  
BOBACK, SCHLOSSBERG, McNEILL, BULLOCK, SAINATO, KINSEY,  
V. BROWN, WARREN, THOMAS, WARD, FITZGERALD, MATZIE,  
HENNESSEY, NEILSON, D. COSTA AND READSHAW, MARCH 28, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MARCH 28, 2017

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  
12 definitions.

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 November 2, 2016 (P.L.969,  
18 No.17), is amended and the section is amended by adding a  
19 definition to read:

20 Section 1303. Definitions.

21 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
22 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]:

10 (i) Railroad retirement benefits for calendar years  
11 prior to 1999 and 50% of railroad retirement benefits for  
12 calendar years 1999 and thereafter.

13 (ii) Social Security substitute pensions for  
14 calendar years prior to 2015 and 50% of Social Security  
15 substitute pensions for calendar years 2015 and  
16 thereafter.

17 (3) (i) All benefits received under the Social Security  
18 Act (49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. § 301 et seq.), except  
19 Medicare benefits, for calendar years prior to 1999, and  
20 50% of all benefits received under the Social Security  
21 Act, except Medicare benefits, for calendar years 1999  
22 and thereafter.

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

29 (iii) Eligibility in the property tax and rent  
30 rebate program pursuant to subparagraph (ii) shall expire

1 on December 31, 2016.

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

4 (5) All interest received from the Federal or any state  
5 government or any instrumentality or political subdivision  
6 thereof.

7 (6) Realized capital gains and rentals.

8 (7) Workers' compensation.

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

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

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

19 \* \* \*

20 "Social Security substitute pension." A pension that is  
21 provided in lieu of old age and survivor benefit payments under  
22 the Social Security Act (49 Stat. 620, 42 U.S.C. § 301 et seq.)  
23 to a person whose employment was not covered under the Social  
24 Security Act. The amount of the pension that qualifies as a  
25 "Social Security substitute pension" shall not exceed the  
26 maximum Federal old age and survivor benefit payments, less any  
27 Federal old age and survivor benefit payments received under the  
28 Social Security Act for employment covered under the Social  
29 Security Act.

30 \* \* \*

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.