
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 797 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, RABB, LONGIETTI, CALTAGIRONE, WARREN,
McNEILL, WEBSTER, McCLINTON, NEILSON, HILL-EVANS, MARKOSEK,
DONATUCCI, DeLUCA, GILLEN AND WILLIAMS, MARCH 13, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MARCH 13, 2019

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 rebates 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, 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.

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. Income shall be reduced by the face
12 amount of property taxes paid by the claimant on the claimant's
13 primary residence regardless of whether the taxes were paid in
14 the discount, face or penalty period.

15 * * *

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.