
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 597 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY SABATINA, FONTANA, BREWSTER, HUGHES, TARTAGLIONE,
SANTARSIERO, YUDICHAK, COSTA, COLLETT, SCHWANK, K. WARD,
FARNESE, J. WARD AND HAYWOOD, APRIL 30, 2019

REFERRED TO FINANCE, APRIL 30, 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 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, 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
17 act to the contrary, persons who, as of December 31,
18 2012, are eligible for the property tax or rent rebate
19 shall remain eligible if the household income limit is
20 exceeded 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 (iv) Notwithstanding any other provision of this act
26 to the contrary, persons who, as of December 31, 2018,
27 are eligible for the property tax or rent rebate shall
28 remain eligible if the household income limit is exceeded
29 due solely to a Social Security cost-of-living
30 adjustment.

1 (4) All benefits received under State unemployment
2 insurance laws.

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

6 (6) Realized capital gains and rentals.

7 (7) Workers' compensation.

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

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

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

18 * * *

19 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.