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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 491 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, HAMM, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, JAMES,  
DRISCOLL, PISCIOTTANO, HELM, CONKLIN, R. MACKENZIE, O'MARA,  
FREEMAN, WEBSTER, CIRESI, SAINATO, M. MACKENZIE, GILLEN AND  
POLINCHOCK, FEBRUARY 9, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, FEBRUARY 9, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for the exclusion of  
3 veterans' benefit payments from income for Commonwealth  
4 programs.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
8 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

9 CHAPTER 99

10 VETERANS' BENEFIT PAYMENT EXCLUSION

11 Sec.

12 9901. Definitions.

13 9902. Exclusion.

14 § 9901. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "Commonwealth program." A program administered by the  
2 Commonwealth that requires, as a condition for eligibility, the  
3 inclusion of an individual's income.

4 "Veteran." An individual who served in the United States  
5 Armed Forces, including a reserve component or National Guard,  
6 and who was discharged from that service under conditions other  
7 than dishonorable.

8 "Veterans' benefit payment." Compensation or payment  
9 received by a veteran that is directly related to or the result  
10 of the veteran's service-connected disability as determined by  
11 the United States Veterans Administration.

12 § 9902. Exclusion.

13 (a) General rule.--One hundred percent of a veterans'  
14 benefit payment may not be included as income for any  
15 Commonwealth program.

16 (b) Extension to spouses.--The exclusion under this section  
17 shall apply to an unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of a  
18 veteran for any compensation or payment the unmarried surviving  
19 spouse is entitled to receive.

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