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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1437 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY MERSKI, LONGIETTI, SCHLOSSBERG, SANCHEZ, FREEMAN,  
HILL-EVANS, DELLOSO, HOWARD, MILLARD, DRISCOLL, SIMS,  
SCHWEYER, NEILSON, SAINATO, DEASY AND CIRESI, MAY 17, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MAY 17, 2021

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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.