

HB1337



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB1337

Introduced 1/28/2025, by Rep. Paul Jacobs

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

35 ILCS 200/15-168

Amends the Property Tax Code. In provisions concerning the homestead exemption for persons with disabilities, provides that, if the person with a disability is eligible to receive disability benefits under the federal Social Security Act and has a household income that does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level, then the property is exempt from taxation under the Code. Effective immediately.

LRB104 03319 HLH 13341 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning revenue.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Property Tax Code is amended by changing
5 Section 15-168 as follows:

6 (35 ILCS 200/15-168)

7 Sec. 15-168. Homestead exemption for persons with
8 disabilities.

9 (a) Beginning with taxable year 2007, an annual homestead
10 exemption is granted to persons with disabilities in the
11 amount of \$2,000, except as provided in subsection subsection
12 (c) and (c-5), to be deducted from the property's value as
13 equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue. The person
14 with a disability shall receive the homestead exemption upon
15 meeting the following requirements:

16 (1) The property must be occupied as the primary
17 residence by the person with a disability.

18 (2) The person with a disability must be liable for
19 paying the real estate taxes on the property.

20 (3) The person with a disability must be an owner of
21 record of the property or have a legal or equitable
22 interest in the property as evidenced by a written
23 instrument. In the case of a leasehold interest in

1 property, the lease must be for a single family residence.

2 A person who has a disability during the taxable year is
3 eligible to apply for this homestead exemption during that
4 taxable year. Application must be made during the application
5 period in effect for the county of residence. If a homestead
6 exemption has been granted under this Section and the person
7 awarded the exemption subsequently becomes a resident of a
8 facility licensed under the Nursing Home Care Act, the
9 Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Act of 2013, the
10 ID/DD Community Care Act, or the MC/DD Act, then the exemption
11 shall continue (i) so long as the residence continues to be
12 occupied by the qualifying person's spouse or (ii) if the
13 residence remains unoccupied but is still owned by the person
14 qualified for the homestead exemption.

15 (b) ~~For the purposes of this Section, "person with a~~
16 ~~disability" means a person unable to engage in any substantial~~
17 ~~gainful activity by reason of a medically determinable~~
18 ~~physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result~~
19 ~~in death or has lasted or can be expected to last for a~~
20 ~~continuous period of not less than 12 months.~~ Persons with
21 disabilities filing claims under this Act shall submit proof
22 of disability in such form and manner as the Department shall
23 by rule and regulation prescribe. Proof that a claimant is
24 eligible to receive disability benefits under the Federal
25 Social Security Act shall constitute proof of disability for
26 purposes of this Act. Issuance of an Illinois Person with a

1 Disability Identification Card stating that the claimant is
2 under a Class 2 disability, as defined in Section 4A of the
3 Illinois Identification Card Act, shall constitute proof that
4 the person named thereon is a person with a disability for
5 purposes of this Act. A person with a disability not covered
6 under the Federal Social Security Act and not presenting an
7 Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card stating
8 that the claimant is under a Class 2 disability shall be
9 examined by a physician, optometrist (if the person qualifies
10 because of a visual disability), advanced practice registered
11 nurse, or physician assistant designated by the Department,
12 and his status as a person with a disability determined using
13 the same standards as used by the Social Security
14 Administration. The costs of any required examination shall be
15 borne by the claimant.

16 (c) For land improved with (i) an apartment building owned
17 and operated as a cooperative or (ii) a life care facility as
18 defined under Section 2 of the Life Care Facilities Act that is
19 considered to be a cooperative, the maximum reduction from the
20 value of the property, as equalized or assessed by the
21 Department, shall be multiplied by the number of apartments or
22 units occupied by a person with a disability. The person with a
23 disability shall receive the homestead exemption upon meeting
24 the following requirements:

25 (1) The property must be occupied as the primary
26 residence by the person with a disability.

(2) The person with a disability must be liable by contract with the owner or owners of record for paying the apportioned property taxes on the property of the cooperative or life care facility. In the case of a life care facility, the person with a disability must be liable for paying the apportioned property taxes under a life care contract as defined in Section 2 of the Life Care Facilities Act.

(3) The person with a disability must be an owner of record of a legal or equitable interest in the cooperative apartment building. A leasehold interest does not meet this requirement.

If a homestead exemption is granted under this subsection, the cooperative association or management firm shall credit the savings resulting from the exemption to the apportioned tax liability of the qualifying person with a disability. The chief county assessment officer may request reasonable proof that the association or firm has properly credited the exemption. A person who willfully refuses to credit an exemption to the qualified person with a disability is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

(c-5) Beginning with taxable year 2025, if the person with a disability is eligible to receive disability benefits under the federal Social Security Act and has a household income that does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level, then the property is exempt from taxation under this Code. For the

1 purposes of this subsection, the federal poverty level shall
2 be determined using the most recent poverty guidelines
3 available as of the first day of the taxable year, as those
4 guidelines are reported in the Federal Register by the United
5 States Department of Health and Human Services under the
6 authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).

7 (d) The chief county assessment officer shall determine
8 the eligibility of property to receive the homestead exemption
9 according to guidelines established by the Department. After a
10 person has received an exemption under this Section, an annual
11 verification of eligibility for the exemption shall be mailed
12 to the taxpayer.

13 In counties with fewer than 3,000,000 inhabitants, the
14 chief county assessment officer shall provide to each person
15 granted a homestead exemption under this Section a form to
16 designate any other person to receive a duplicate of any
17 notice of delinquency in the payment of taxes assessed and
18 levied under this Code on the person's qualifying property.
19 The duplicate notice shall be in addition to the notice
20 required to be provided to the person receiving the exemption
21 and shall be given in the manner required by this Code. The
22 person filing the request for the duplicate notice shall pay
23 an administrative fee of \$5 to the chief county assessment
24 officer. The assessment officer shall then file the executed
25 designation with the county collector, who shall issue the
26 duplicate notices as indicated by the designation. A

1 designation may be rescinded by the person with a disability
2 in the manner required by the chief county assessment officer.

3 (d-5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each
4 chief county assessment officer may approve this exemption for
5 the 2020 taxable year, without application, for any property
6 that was approved for this exemption for the 2019 taxable
7 year, provided that:

8 (1) the county board has declared a local disaster as
9 provided in the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act
10 related to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

11 (2) the owner of record of the property as of January
12 1, 2020 is the same as the owner of record of the property
13 as of January 1, 2019;

14 (3) the exemption for the 2019 taxable year has not
15 been determined to be an erroneous exemption as defined by
16 this Code; and

17 (4) the applicant for the 2019 taxable year has not
18 asked for the exemption to be removed for the 2019 or 2020
19 taxable years.

20 (d-10) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each
21 chief county assessment officer may approve this exemption for
22 the 2021 taxable year, without application, for any property
23 that was approved for this exemption for the 2020 taxable
24 year, if:

25 (1) the county board has declared a local disaster as
26 provided in the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act

1 related to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

2 (2) the owner of record of the property as of January
3 1, 2021 is the same as the owner of record of the property
4 as of January 1, 2020;

5 (3) the exemption for the 2020 taxable year has not
6 been determined to be an erroneous exemption as defined by
7 this Code; and

8 (4) the taxpayer for the 2020 taxable year has not
9 asked for the exemption to be removed for the 2020 or 2021
10 taxable years.

11 (d-15) For taxable years 2022 through 2027, in any county
12 of more than 3,000,000 residents, and in any other county
13 where the county board has authorized such action by ordinance
14 or resolution, a chief county assessment officer may renew
15 this exemption for any person who applied for the exemption
16 and presented proof of eligibility, as described in subsection
17 (b), without an annual application as required under
18 subsection (d). A chief county assessment officer shall not
19 automatically renew an exemption under this subsection if: the
20 physician, advanced practice registered nurse, optometrist, or
21 physician assistant who examined the claimant determined that
22 the disability is not expected to continue for 12 months or
23 more; the exemption has been deemed erroneous since the last
24 application; or the claimant has reported their ineligibility
25 to receive the exemption. A chief county assessment officer
26 who automatically renews an exemption under this subsection

1 shall notify a person of a subsequent determination not to
2 automatically renew that person's exemption and shall provide
3 that person with an application to renew the exemption.

4 (d-20) As used in this Section:

5 "Household" means the applicant, the spouse of the
6 applicant, and all persons using the residence of the
7 applicant as their principal place of residence.

8 "Household income" means the combined income of the
9 members of a household for the calendar year preceding the
10 taxable year.

11 "Income" has the same meaning as provided in Section 3.07
12 of the Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities Property
13 Tax Relief Act.

14 "Person with a disability" means a person who is unable to
15 engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of a
16 medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can
17 be expected to result in death or has lasted or can be expected
18 to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.

19 (e) A taxpayer who claims an exemption under Section
20 15-165 or 15-169 may not claim an exemption under this
21 Section.

22 (Source: P.A. 102-136, eff. 7-23-21; 102-895, eff. 5-23-22;
23 103-154, eff. 6-30-23.)

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
25 becoming law.