

# SB1678



## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

SB1678

Introduced 2/19/2009, by Sen. Matt Murphy

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

35 ILCS 200/15-170

Amends the Property Tax Code. In a Section concerning the Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption, provides that in all counties (now, in counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants), the county board may by resolution provide that if a person has been granted a senior citizens homestead exemption, the person qualifying need not reapply for the exemption. Effective immediately.

LRB096 10745 HLH 20933 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

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 15-170 as follows:

6 (35 ILCS 200/15-170)

7 Sec. 15-170. Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption. An  
8 annual homestead exemption limited, except as described here  
9 with relation to cooperatives or life care facilities, to a  
10 maximum reduction set forth below from the property's value, as  
11 equalized or assessed by the Department, is granted for  
12 property that is occupied as a residence by a person 65 years  
13 of age or older who is liable for paying real estate taxes on  
14 the property and is an owner of record of the property or has a  
15 legal or equitable interest therein as evidenced by a written  
16 instrument, except for a leasehold interest, other than a  
17 leasehold interest of land on which a single family residence  
18 is located, which is occupied as a residence by a person 65  
19 years or older who has an ownership interest therein, legal,  
20 equitable or as a lessee, and on which he or she is liable for  
21 the payment of property taxes. Before taxable year 2004, the  
22 maximum reduction shall be \$2,500 in counties with 3,000,000 or  
23 more inhabitants and \$2,000 in all other counties. For taxable

1 years 2004 through 2005, the maximum reduction shall be \$3,000  
2 in all counties. For taxable years 2006 and 2007, the maximum  
3 reduction shall be \$3,500 and, for taxable years 2008 and  
4 thereafter, the maximum reduction is \$4,000 in all counties.

5 For land improved with an apartment building owned and  
6 operated as a cooperative, the maximum reduction from the value  
7 of the property, as equalized by the Department, shall be  
8 multiplied by the number of apartments or units occupied by a  
9 person 65 years of age or older who is liable, by contract with  
10 the owner or owners of record, for paying property taxes on the  
11 property and is an owner of record of a legal or equitable  
12 interest in the cooperative apartment building, other than a  
13 leasehold interest. For land improved with a life care  
14 facility, the maximum reduction from the value of the property,  
15 as equalized by the Department, shall be multiplied by the  
16 number of apartments or units occupied by persons 65 years of  
17 age or older, irrespective of any legal, equitable, or  
18 leasehold interest in the facility, who are liable, under a  
19 contract with the owner or owners of record of the facility,  
20 for paying property taxes on the property. In a cooperative or  
21 a life care facility where a homestead exemption has been  
22 granted, the cooperative association or the management firm of  
23 the cooperative or facility shall credit the savings resulting  
24 from that exemption only to the apportioned tax liability of  
25 the owner or resident who qualified for the exemption. Any  
26 person who willfully refuses to so credit the savings shall be

1 guilty of a Class B misdemeanor. Under this Section and  
2 Sections 15-175, 15-176, and 15-177, "life care facility" means  
3 a facility, as defined in Section 2 of the Life Care Facilities  
4 Act, with which the applicant for the homestead exemption has a  
5 life care contract as defined in that Act.

6 When a homestead exemption has been granted under this  
7 Section and the person qualifying subsequently becomes a  
8 resident of a facility licensed under the Nursing Home Care  
9 Act, the exemption shall continue so long as the residence  
10 continues to be occupied by the qualifying person's spouse if  
11 the spouse is 65 years of age or older, or if the residence  
12 remains unoccupied but is still owned by the person qualified  
13 for the homestead exemption.

14 A person who will be 65 years of age during the current  
15 assessment year shall be eligible to apply for the homestead  
16 exemption during that assessment year. Application shall be  
17 made during the application period in effect for the county of  
18 his residence.

19 Beginning with assessment year 2003, for taxes payable in  
20 2004, property that is first occupied as a residence after  
21 January 1 of any assessment year by a person who is eligible  
22 for the senior citizens homestead exemption under this Section  
23 must be granted a pro-rata exemption for the assessment year.  
24 The amount of the pro-rata exemption is the exemption allowed  
25 in the county under this Section divided by 365 and multiplied  
26 by the number of days during the assessment year the property

1 is occupied as a residence by a person eligible for the  
2 exemption under this Section. The chief county assessment  
3 officer must adopt reasonable procedures to establish  
4 eligibility for this pro-rata exemption.

5 The assessor or chief county assessment officer may  
6 determine the eligibility of a life care facility to receive  
7 the benefits provided by this Section, by affidavit,  
8 application, visual inspection, questionnaire or other  
9 reasonable methods in order to insure that the tax savings  
10 resulting from the exemption are credited by the management  
11 firm to the apportioned tax liability of each qualifying  
12 resident. The assessor may request reasonable proof that the  
13 management firm has so credited the exemption.

14 The chief county assessment officer of each county with  
15 less than 3,000,000 inhabitants shall provide to each person  
16 allowed a homestead exemption under this Section a form to  
17 designate any other person to receive a duplicate of any notice  
18 of delinquency in the payment of taxes assessed and levied  
19 under this Code on the property of the person receiving the  
20 exemption. The duplicate notice shall be in addition to the  
21 notice required to be provided to the person receiving the  
22 exemption, and shall be given in the manner required by this  
23 Code. The person filing the request for the duplicate notice  
24 shall pay a fee of \$5 to cover administrative costs to the  
25 supervisor of assessments, who shall then file the executed  
26 designation with the county collector. Notwithstanding any

1 other provision of this Code to the contrary, the filing of  
2 such an executed designation requires the county collector to  
3 provide duplicate notices as indicated by the designation. A  
4 designation may be rescinded by the person who executed such  
5 designation at any time, in the manner and form required by the  
6 chief county assessment officer.

7 The assessor or chief county assessment officer may  
8 determine the eligibility of residential property to receive  
9 the homestead exemption provided by this Section by  
10 application, visual inspection, questionnaire or other  
11 reasonable methods. The determination shall be made in  
12 accordance with guidelines established by the Department.

13 In all counties ~~with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants~~, the  
14 county board may by resolution provide that if a person has  
15 been granted a homestead exemption under this Section, the  
16 person qualifying need not reapply for the exemption.

17 In counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, if the  
18 assessor or chief county assessment officer requires annual  
19 application for verification of eligibility for an exemption  
20 once granted under this Section, the application shall be  
21 mailed to the taxpayer.

22 The assessor or chief county assessment officer shall  
23 notify each person who qualifies for an exemption under this  
24 Section that the person may also qualify for deferral of real  
25 estate taxes under the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral  
26 Act. The notice shall set forth the qualifications needed for

1 deferral of real estate taxes, the address and telephone number  
2 of county collector, and a statement that applications for  
3 deferral of real estate taxes may be obtained from the county  
4 collector.

5 Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8 of the State Mandates Act,  
6 no reimbursement by the State is required for the  
7 implementation of any mandate created by this Section.

8 (Source: P.A. 94-794, eff. 5-22-06; 95-644, eff. 10-12-07;  
9 95-876, eff. 8-21-08.)

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
11 becoming law.