



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

HB5954

by Rep. Dwight Kay

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

35 ILCS 200/15-170

Amends the Property Tax Code. Increases the maximum reduction under the Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption from \$5,000 to \$7,000 for taxable year 2014 and indexes the reduction to the Consumer Price Index. Effective immediately.

LRB098 16993 HLH 52075 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY
IMPACT NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

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. For taxable years 2008 through 2011,
4 the maximum reduction is \$4,000 in all counties. For taxable
5 year 2012, the maximum reduction is \$5,000 in counties with
6 3,000,000 or more inhabitants and \$4,000 in all other counties.
7 For taxable year ~~years~~ 2013 ~~and thereafter~~, the maximum
8 reduction is \$5,000 in all counties. For taxable year 2014, the
9 maximum reduction is \$7,000 in all counties. For taxable years
10 2015 and thereafter, the maximum reduction is the maximum
11 reduction for the prior taxable year increased by the annual
12 rate of increase for the previous calendar year of the Consumer
13 Price Index for All Urban Consumers for all items published by
14 the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

15 For land improved with an apartment building owned and
16 operated as a cooperative, the maximum reduction from the value
17 of the property, as equalized by the Department, shall be
18 multiplied by the number of apartments or units occupied by a
19 person 65 years of age or older who is liable, by contract with
20 the owner or owners of record, for paying property taxes on the
21 property and is an owner of record of a legal or equitable
22 interest in the cooperative apartment building, other than a
23 leasehold interest. For land improved with a life care
24 facility, the maximum reduction from the value of the property,
25 as equalized by the Department, shall be multiplied by the
26 number of apartments or units occupied by persons 65 years of

1 age or older, irrespective of any legal, equitable, or
2 leasehold interest in the facility, who are liable, under a
3 contract with the owner or owners of record of the facility,
4 for paying property taxes on the property. In a cooperative or
5 a life care facility where a homestead exemption has been
6 granted, the cooperative association or the management firm of
7 the cooperative or facility shall credit the savings resulting
8 from that exemption only to the apportioned tax liability of
9 the owner or resident who qualified for the exemption. Any
10 person who willfully refuses to so credit the savings shall be
11 guilty of a Class B misdemeanor. Under this Section and
12 Sections 15-175, 15-176, and 15-177, "life care facility" means
13 a facility, as defined in Section 2 of the Life Care Facilities
14 Act, with which the applicant for the homestead exemption has a
15 life care contract as defined in that Act.

16 When a homestead exemption has been granted under this
17 Section and the person qualifying subsequently becomes a
18 resident of a facility licensed under the Assisted Living and
19 Shared Housing Act, the Nursing Home Care Act, the Specialized
20 Mental Health Rehabilitation Act of 2013, or the ID/DD
21 Community Care Act, the exemption shall continue so long as the
22 residence continues to be occupied by the qualifying person's
23 spouse if the spouse is 65 years of age or older, or if the
24 residence remains unoccupied but is still owned by the person
25 qualified for the homestead exemption.

26 A person who will be 65 years of age during the current

1 assessment year shall be eligible to apply for the homestead
2 exemption during that assessment year. Application shall be
3 made during the application period in effect for the county of
4 his residence.

5 Beginning with assessment year 2003, for taxes payable in
6 2004, property that is first occupied as a residence after
7 January 1 of any assessment year by a person who is eligible
8 for the senior citizens homestead exemption under this Section
9 must be granted a pro-rata exemption for the assessment year.
10 The amount of the pro-rata exemption is the exemption allowed
11 in the county under this Section divided by 365 and multiplied
12 by the number of days during the assessment year the property
13 is occupied as a residence by a person eligible for the
14 exemption under this Section. The chief county assessment
15 officer must adopt reasonable procedures to establish
16 eligibility for this pro-rata exemption.

17 The assessor or chief county assessment officer may
18 determine the eligibility of a life care facility to receive
19 the benefits provided by this Section, by affidavit,
20 application, visual inspection, questionnaire or other
21 reasonable methods in order to insure that the tax savings
22 resulting from the exemption are credited by the management
23 firm to the apportioned tax liability of each qualifying
24 resident. The assessor may request reasonable proof that the
25 management firm has so credited the exemption.

26 The chief county assessment officer of each county with

1 less than 3,000,000 inhabitants shall provide to each person
2 allowed a homestead exemption under this Section a form to
3 designate any other person to receive a duplicate of any notice
4 of delinquency in the payment of taxes assessed and levied
5 under this Code on the property of the person receiving the
6 exemption. The duplicate notice shall be in addition to the
7 notice required to be provided to the person receiving the
8 exemption, and shall be given in the manner required by this
9 Code. The person filing the request for the duplicate notice
10 shall pay a fee of \$5 to cover administrative costs to the
11 supervisor of assessments, who shall then file the executed
12 designation with the county collector. Notwithstanding any
13 other provision of this Code to the contrary, the filing of
14 such an executed designation requires the county collector to
15 provide duplicate notices as indicated by the designation. A
16 designation may be rescinded by the person who executed such
17 designation at any time, in the manner and form required by the
18 chief county assessment officer.

19 The assessor or chief county assessment officer may
20 determine the eligibility of residential property to receive
21 the homestead exemption provided by this Section by
22 application, visual inspection, questionnaire or other
23 reasonable methods. The determination shall be made in
24 accordance with guidelines established by the Department.

25 In counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants, beginning
26 in taxable year 2010, each taxpayer who has been granted an

1 exemption under this Section must reapply on an annual basis.
2 The chief county assessment officer shall mail the application
3 to the taxpayer. In counties with less than 3,000,000
4 inhabitants, the county board may by resolution provide that if
5 a person has been granted a homestead exemption under this
6 Section, the person qualifying need not reapply for the
7 exemption.

8 In counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, if the
9 assessor or chief county assessment officer requires annual
10 application for verification of eligibility for an exemption
11 once granted under this Section, the application shall be
12 mailed to the taxpayer.

13 The assessor or chief county assessment officer shall
14 notify each person who qualifies for an exemption under this
15 Section that the person may also qualify for deferral of real
16 estate taxes under the Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral
17 Act. The notice shall set forth the qualifications needed for
18 deferral of real estate taxes, the address and telephone number
19 of county collector, and a statement that applications for
20 deferral of real estate taxes may be obtained from the county
21 collector.

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

25 (Source: P.A. 97-38, eff. 6-28-11; 97-227, eff. 1-1-12; 97-813,
26 eff. 7-13-12; 98-7, eff. 4-23-13; 98-104, eff. 7-22-13; revised

1 8-12-13.)

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.