

CHAPTER 157

SENATE Substitute for HOUSE BILL No. 2476

AN ACT concerning taxation; relating to homestead property tax refunds; amending K.S.A. 79-4509 and 79-4511 and K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 79-4502 and 79-4504 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. A person owning or occupying a homestead that is not rental property and for which the appraised valuation for property tax purposes exceeds \$350,000 in any year shall not be entitled to claim a refund of property taxes under the homestead property tax refund act for any such year. The provisions of this section shall be part of and supplemental to the homestead property tax refund act.

New Sec. 2. If there are delinquent property taxes on the claimant's homestead, the refund shall be paid to the county treasurer of the county in which such homestead is located and applied first to the oldest of such delinquent property taxes and applied forward to the most recent delinquent property taxes and then to any other property taxes due on the claimant's homestead. The provisions of this section shall be part of and supplemental to the homestead property tax refund act.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 79-4502 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-4502. As used in this act, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(a) "Income" means the sum of adjusted gross income under the Kansas income tax act, maintenance, support money, cash public assistance and relief, not including any refund granted under this act, the gross amount of any pension or annuity, including all monetary retirement benefits from whatever source derived, including but not limited to, all payments received under the railroad retirement act, except disability payments ~~and all payments received under the federal social security act except disability payments~~, *payments received under the federal social security act, except that for determination of what constitutes income such amount shall not exceed 50% of any such social security payments*, all dividends and interest from whatever source derived not included in adjusted gross income, workers compensation and the gross amount of "loss of time" insurance. Income does not include gifts from nongovernmental sources or surplus food or other relief in kind supplied by a governmental agency, nor shall net operating losses and net capital losses be considered in the determination of income. Income does not include veterans disability pensions. *Income does not include disability payments received under the federal social security act.*

(b) "Household" means a claimant, a claimant and spouse who occupy the homestead or a claimant and one or more individuals not related as husband and wife who together occupy a homestead.

(c) "Household income" means all income received by all persons of a household in a calendar year while members of such household.

(d) "Homestead" means the dwelling, or any part thereof, whether owned or rented, which is occupied as a residence by the household and so much of the land surrounding it, as defined as a home site for ad valorem tax purposes, and may consist of a part of a multi-dwelling or multi-purpose building and a part of the land upon which it is built or a manufactured home or mobile home and the land upon which it is situated. "Owned" includes a vendee in possession under a land contract, a life tenant, a beneficiary under a trust and one or more joint tenants or tenants in common.

(e) "Claimant" means a person who has filed a claim under the provisions of this act and was, during the entire calendar year preceding the year in which such claim was filed for refund under this act, except as provided in K.S.A. 79-4503, and amendments thereto, both domiciled in this state and was: (1) A person having a disability; (2) a person who is 55 years of age or older or (3) a person other than a person included under (1) or (2) having one or more dependent children under 18 years of age residing at the person's homestead during the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which a claim is filed under this act.

When a homestead is occupied by two or more individuals and more than one of the individuals is able to qualify as a claimant, the individuals may determine between them as to whom the claimant will be. If they

are unable to agree, the matter shall be referred to the secretary of revenue whose decision shall be final.

(f) "Property taxes accrued" means property taxes, exclusive of special assessments, delinquent interest and charges for service, levied on a claimant's homestead in 1979 or any calendar year thereafter by the state of Kansas and the political and taxing subdivisions of the state. When a homestead is owned by two or more persons or entities as joint tenants or tenants in common and one or more of the persons or entities is not a member of claimant's household, "property taxes accrued" is that part of property taxes levied on the homestead that reflects the ownership percentage of the claimant's household. For purposes of this act, property taxes are "levied" when the tax roll is delivered to the local treasurer with the treasurer's warrant for collection. When a claimant and household own their homestead part of a calendar year, "property taxes accrued" means only taxes levied on the homestead when both owned and occupied as a homestead by the claimant's household at the time of the levy, multiplied by the percentage of 12 months that the property was owned and occupied by the household as its homestead in the year. When a household owns and occupies two or more different homesteads in the same calendar year, property taxes accrued shall be the sum of the taxes allocable to those several properties while occupied by the household as its homestead during the year. Whenever a homestead is an integral part of a larger unit such as a multi-purpose or multi-dwelling building, property taxes accrued shall be that percentage of the total property taxes accrued as the value of the homestead is of the total value. For the purpose of this act, the word "unit" refers to that parcel of property covered by a single tax statement of which the homestead is a part.

(g) "Disability" means:

(1) Inability to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months, and an individual shall be determined to be under a disability only if the physical or mental impairment or impairments are of such severity that the individual is not only unable to do the individual's previous work but cannot, considering age, education and work experience, engage in any other kind of substantial gainful work which exists in the national economy, regardless of whether such work exists in the immediate area in which the individual lives or whether a specific job vacancy exists for the individual, or whether the individual would be hired if application was made for work. For purposes of the preceding sentence (with respect to any individual), "work which exists in the national economy" means work which exists in significant numbers either in the region where the individual lives or in several regions of the country; for purposes of this subsection, a "physical or mental impairment" is an impairment that results from anatomical, physiological or psychological abnormalities which are demonstrable by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques; or

(2) blindness and inability by reason of blindness to engage in substantial gainful activity requiring skills or abilities comparable to those of any gainful activity in which the individual has previously engaged with some regularity and over a substantial period of time.

(h) "Blindness" means central visual acuity of $\frac{20}{200}$ or less in the better eye with the use of a correcting lens. An eye which is accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees shall be considered for the purpose of this paragraph as having a central visual acuity of $\frac{20}{200}$ or less.

(i) "Rent constituting property taxes accrued" means ~~20%~~ 15% of the gross rent actually paid in cash or its equivalent in ~~1979~~ 2007 or any taxable year thereafter by a claimant and claimant's household solely for the right of occupancy of a Kansas homestead on which ad valorem property taxes were levied in full for that year. When a household occupies two or more different homesteads in the same calendar year, rent constituting property taxes accrued shall be computed by adding the rent constituting property taxes accrued for each property rented by the household while occupied by the household as its homestead during the year.

(j) "Gross rent" means the rental paid at arm's length solely for the right of occupancy of a homestead or space rental paid to a landlord for

the parking of a mobile home, exclusive of charges for any utilities, services, furniture and furnishings or personal property appliances furnished by the landlord as a part of the rental agreement, whether or not expressly set out in the rental agreement. Whenever the director of taxation finds that the landlord and tenant have not dealt with each other at arms length and that the gross rent charge was excessive, the director may adjust the gross rent to a reasonable amount for the purposes of the claim.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 79-4504 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-4504. Subject to the limitations provided in this act or the provisions of K.S.A. 79-4530, and amendments thereto, as the case requires, a claimant may claim property tax relief under the homestead property tax refund act or the provisions of K.S.A. 79-4530, and amendments thereto, with respect to property taxes accrued, and after audit by the division of taxation with respect to homestead property tax refund act, the allowable amount of such claim shall be paid, except as otherwise provided in K.S.A. 79-4506, 79-4521 and section 2, and amendments thereto, to the claimant from the income tax refund fund upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports pursuant to vouchers approved by the director of taxation or by any person designated by the claimant, but no warrant issued hereunder shall be drawn in an amount of less than \$5. No interest shall be allowed on any payment made to a claimant pursuant to this act.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 79-4509 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-4509. In the event property taxes accrued, rent constituting property taxes accrued or their sum exceeds ~~\$600~~ \$700 for a household in any one year, the amount thereof shall, for purposes of this act, be deemed to have been ~~\$600~~ \$700.

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 79-4511 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-4511. (a) Every claimant under this act shall supply to the division, in support of a claim, reasonable proof of age or disability, and changes of homestead, household membership, household income, and size and nature of property claimed as the homestead. A claim alleging disability shall be supported by a report of the examining physician of the claimant with a statement or certificate that the applicant has a disability within the meaning of subsection (g) of K.S.A. 79-4502 and amendments thereto.

(b) Every claimant who is a homestead owner, or whose claim is based wholly or partly upon homestead ownership at some time during the calendar year, shall supply to the division, in support of a claim, ~~a copy of the statement~~ *the amount of property taxes levied upon the property claimed as a homestead and a statement that the property taxes accrued used for purposes of this act have been or will be paid by the claimant and that there are no delinquent property taxes on the homestead.* Upon request by the division, such claimant shall provide a copy of the statement of property taxes levied upon the property claimed as a homestead. The amount of personal property taxes levied on a manufactured home or mobile home shall be set out on the personal property tax statement showing the amount of such tax as a separate item.

(c) Every claimant who is a homestead renter, or whose claim is based wholly or partly upon homestead rental at some time during the calendar year, shall supply to the division, in support of a claim, a statement prescribed by the director certifying the amount of gross rent paid and that ad valorem property taxes were levied in full for that year on the property, all or a part of which was rented by the claimant. *When such claimant reports household income that is 150% or less of the homestead rental amount and such claimant has failed to provide any documentation or information requested by the division to verify such household income in support of a claim as required pursuant to subsection (a), within 30 days of such request, such homestead property tax refund claim shall be denied.*

(d) The information required to be furnished under subsections (b) or (c) shall be in addition to that required under subsection (a).

Sec. 7. K.S.A. 79-4509 and 79-4511 and K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 79-4502 and 79-4504 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.