



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 475

January Session, 2011

House Bill No. 5591

House of Representatives, April 7, 2011

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. GENTILE of the 104th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXTENDING THE RENTAL REBATE APPLICATION PERIOD.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 12-170f of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2011*):

4 (a) Any renter, believing himself or herself to be entitled to a grant
5 under section 12-170d for any calendar year, shall make application for
6 such grant to the assessor of the municipality in which the renter
7 resides or to the duly authorized agent of such assessor or
8 municipality on or after [May fifteenth] April first and not later than
9 [September fifteenth] October first of each year with respect to such
10 grant for the calendar year preceding each such year, on a form
11 prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
12 Management to the assessor. A renter may make application to the
13 secretary prior to December fifteenth of the claim year for an extension
14 of the application period. The secretary may grant such extension in
15 the case of extenuating circumstance due to illness or incapacitation as

16 evidenced by a physician's certificate to that extent, or if the secretary
17 determines there is good cause for doing so. A renter making such
18 application shall present to such assessor or agent, in substantiation of
19 the renter's application, a copy of the renter's federal income tax
20 return, and if not required to file a federal income tax return, such
21 other evidence of qualifying income, receipts for money received, or
22 cancelled checks, or copies thereof, and any other evidence the
23 assessor or such agent may require. When the assessor or agent is
24 satisfied that the applying renter is entitled to a grant, such assessor or
25 agent shall issue a certificate of grant, in triplicate, in such form as the
26 secretary may prescribe and supply showing the amount of the grant
27 due. The assessor or agent shall forward the original copy and
28 attached application to the secretary not later than the last day of the
29 month following the month in which the renter has made application.
30 On or after December 1, 1989, any municipality which neglects to
31 transmit to the secretary the claim and supporting applications as
32 required by this section shall forfeit two hundred fifty dollars to the
33 state, provided said secretary may waive such forfeiture in accordance
34 with procedures and standards adopted by regulation in accordance
35 with chapter 54. A duplicate of such certificate with a copy of the
36 application attached shall be delivered to the renter and the assessor or
37 agent shall keep the third copy of such certificate and a copy of the
38 application. After the secretary's review of each claim, pursuant to
39 section 12-120b, and verification of the amount of the grant the
40 secretary shall, not later than September thirtieth of each year prepare
41 a list of certificates approved for payment, and shall thereafter
42 supplement such list monthly. Such list and any supplements thereto
43 shall be approved for payment by the secretary and shall be forwarded
44 by the secretary to the Comptroller, not later than ninety days after
45 receipt of such applications and certificates of grant from the assessor
46 or agent, and the Comptroller shall draw an order on the Treasurer,
47 not later than fifteen days following, in favor of each person on such
48 list and on supplements to such list in the amount of such person's
49 claim and the Treasurer shall pay such amount to such person, not
50 later than fifteen days following. Any claimant aggrieved by the

51 results of the secretary's review shall have the rights of appeal as set
52 forth in section 12-120b. Applications filed under this section shall not
53 be open for public inspection. Any person who, for the purpose of
54 obtaining a grant under section 12-170d, wilfully fails to disclose all
55 matters related thereto or with intent to defraud makes false statement
56 shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2011</i>	12-170f(a)

PD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	Potential	Potential

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Extending the application period for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Rental Rebate program may cause additional people to become eligible as they previously failed to make timely applications, which may result in a cost to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). The magnitude of these potential costs is unknown. If for example, this bill results in a 1% increase in applications, OPM would incur additional FY 12 costs of approximately \$235,000. In FY 11, 45,524 individuals received payments totaling \$23,554,118.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

Sources: Office of Policy and Management "Report of Adjusted Payments Regarding Connecticut Programs of Tax Relief for Elderly Homeowners and Grants to Elderly Renters for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year"

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5591*****AN ACT EXTENDING THE RENTAL REBATE APPLICATION PERIOD.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill extends, from four to six months, the period for submitting applications under the rental rebate program for elderly and totally disabled persons. Under current law, renters may apply from May 15th through September 15th each year. The bill extends the application period to April 1st through October 1st.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2011

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/23/2011)