

FACTS about

HB 5049 and The Renters' Rebate Program

HB 5049, AAC Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for General Government, proposes to limit the benefits available under the Renter's Rebate Program to within available appropriations. This could effectively reduce the amount of benefits allocated for all claims in able to keep the program within the available funding allocation. Prior to this proposal, benefits under this program were granted to those eligible regardless of the amount available or the numbers of recipients applying.

Since 1973, the Renters' Rebate Program has provided a partial reimbursement of rent and utility bills to elderly or totally disabled CT renters who meet specific low-income guidelines.

- Renters age 65 or older or residents at least 18 who have been found by a government agency to be permanently and totally disabled are eligible. _
- Eligibility also requires residency in CT at the time of application and past residency in the State of CT for one full year.
- Eligible participants' income must be no more than \$33,500 for single individuals or \$40,900 for married couples.

Rebate amounts can range from \$50-\$900. Maximum rebates can be up to \$900 for married couples and \$700 for single persons.

The renters' rebate amount is based on a graduated income scale and the amount of rent and utility payments (excluding telephone and cable) made in the year prior to the calendar year in which the renter applies. To calculate the amount of the rebate 35% of rent plus utilities is compared to 5% of total income for the previous year. The difference is the amount of the rebate.

The average married couple eligible for the program received between \$400 and \$500 through the rebate and the average rebate for unmarried applicants was between \$600 and \$700. **FY 2012-2013 (the latest data available), the program served In 48,140 applicants from around the state.**

Cuts to the Renters' Rebate Program must be restored! CT's elderly and disabled depend on this rebate to maintain their housing!

