



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 559**

January Session, 2017

House Bill No. 7295

*House of Representatives, April 12, 2017*

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. LEMAR of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE RENTERS REBATE PROGRAM.**

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

1 Section 1. Section 12-170f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

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

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

50 on such list and on supplements to such list in the amount of such  
 51 person's claim, minus any per cent reduction noticed by the secretary  
 52 pursuant to this subsection, and the Treasurer shall pay such amount  
 53 to such person, not later than fifteen days following. If the Secretary of  
 54 the Office of Policy and Management determines a renter was  
 55 overpaid for such grant, the amount of any subsequent grant paid to  
 56 the renter under section 12-170d after such determination shall be  
 57 reduced by the amount of overpayment until the overpayment has  
 58 been recouped. Any claimant aggrieved by the results of the  
 59 secretary's review or determination shall have the rights of appeal as  
 60 set forth in section 12-120b. Applications filed under this section shall  
 61 not be open for public inspection. Any person who, for the purpose of  
 62 obtaining a grant under section 12-170d, wilfully fails to disclose all  
 63 matters related thereto or with intent to defraud makes false statement  
 64 shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

65 (b) Any municipality may provide, upon approval by its legislative  
 66 body, that the duties and responsibilities of the assessor, as required  
 67 under this section and section 12-170g, shall be transferred to (1) the  
 68 officer in such municipality having responsibility for the  
 69 administration of social services, or (2) the coordinator or agent for the  
 70 elderly in such municipality.

|   |              |         |
|---|--------------|---------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |              |         |
| Section 1   | July 1, 2017 | 12-170f |

**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:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

There is no fiscal impact resulting from the bill, which extends the deadline by which people eligible for renter's rebates may submit application to the Office of Policy and Management. There is no associated change within the bill that substantively affects the rebate program's costs.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 7295*****AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE RENTERS REBATE PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill extends the payment period for the rental rebate program for the elderly and people with total and permanent disabilities. It does so by (1) delaying, from September 30 to October 15, the date by which the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary must prepare a list of approved program applications and forward them to the comptroller for payment and (2) eliminating the requirement that OPM approve rental rebate program payments within 120 days of receiving applications. By law, (1) renters may apply for the program from April 1 through October 1 of each year and (2) the comptroller must draw an order on the state treasurer no later than 15 days after receiving the list of approved payments from OPM.

The bill also eliminates a provision allowing renters to apply for an extension of the application period by December 15 of the claim year. Current law authorizes OPM to grant an extension for good cause or for people medically certified as having been ill or incapacitated because of extenuating circumstances.

Lastly, the bill eliminates references to duplicate and triplicate copies of the rental rebate certificates and applications assessors submit to OPM. Under current practice, assessors electronically submit these documents to OPM.

The bill also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2017

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21    Nay 0    (03/24/2017)