



# HOUSE BILL No. 5251

February 1, 2000, Introduced by Rep. Richner and referred to the Committee on Tax Policy.

A bill to amend 1893 PA 206, entitled  
"The general property tax act,"  
by amending section 7u (MCL 211.7u), as amended by 1994 PA 390.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 7u. (1) The homestead of ~~persons~~ A PERSON who, in  
2 the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of  
3 poverty, ~~are~~ IS unable to contribute toward the public charges  
4 is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from ~~taxation~~ THE  
5 COLLECTION OF TAXES under this act. This section does not apply  
6 to the property of a corporation.

7       (2) To be eligible for AN exemption under this section, a  
8 person shall do all of the following on an annual basis:

9       (a) ~~Be an owner of~~ OWN and occupy as a homestead the  
10 property for which an exemption is requested.

1 (b) File a claim with the supervisor or board of review on a  
2 form provided by the local ~~assessing~~ TAX COLLECTING unit,  
3 accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all per-  
4 sons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit  
5 returns, filed in the immediately preceding year or in the cur-  
6 rent year. ~~The filing of~~ FILING a claim under this subsection  
7 constitutes an appearance before the board of review ~~for the~~  
8 ~~purpose of preserving~~ AND PRESERVES the claimant's right to  
9 appeal the decision of the board of review regarding the claim.

10 (c) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of iden-  
11 tification if requested by the supervisor or board of review.

12 (d) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of  
13 ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if  
14 required by the supervisor or board of review.

15 (e) ~~Meet~~ HAVE HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF LESS THAN the federal  
16 poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by  
17 the United States office of management and budget or ~~alternative~~  
18 ~~guidelines adopted by the governing body of the local assessing~~  
19 ~~unit provided the alternative guidelines do not provide income~~  
20 ~~eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines~~ 50% OF  
21 THE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA  
22 IN WHICH THE PROPERTY FOR WHICH AN EXEMPTION IS REQUESTED IS  
23 LOCATED, WHICHEVER IS GREATER.

24 (3) The PERSON REQUESTING AN EXEMPTION UNDER THIS SECTION  
25 SHALL FILE AN application ~~for an exemption~~ under this section  
26 ~~shall be filed~~ after January 1 but before the day prior to the  
27 last day of the board of review.

1       (4) The governing body of the local ~~assessing~~ TAX  
2 COLLECTING unit shall determine and make available to the public  
3 the policy and guidelines the local assessing unit uses ~~for the~~  
4 ~~granting of~~ TO GRANT exemptions under this section. The guide-  
5 lines shall include, but ARE not ~~be~~ limited to, the CLAIMANT'S  
6 specific income and asset levels ~~of the claimant~~ and THE  
7 CLAIMANT'S total household income and assets.

8       (5) The board of review shall follow the policy and guide-  
9 lines of the local ~~assessing~~ TAX COLLECTING unit in granting or  
10 denying an exemption under this section unless the board of  
11 review determines THAT there are substantial and compelling rea-  
12 sons why ~~there~~ THE BOARD OF REVIEW should ~~be a deviation~~  
13 DEVIATE from the policy and guidelines and the substantial and  
14 compelling reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant.

15       (6) A person who files ~~a claim~~ AN APPLICATION FOR  
16 EXEMPTION under this section ~~is not prohibited from~~ MAY also  
17 ~~appealing~~ APPEAL the assessment on the property for which ~~that~~  
18 ~~claim~~ THE REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION is made before the board of  
19 review in the same year.

20       (7) As used in this section, "homestead" means A homestead  
21 or qualified agricultural property as those terms are defined in  
22 section 7dd.