



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 10

January Session, 2021

House Bill No. 6354

House of Representatives, March 4, 2021

The Committee on Aging reported through REP. PHIPPS of the 100th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

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2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2021*):

4 (a) Any renter, believing himself or herself to be entitled to a grant
5 under section 12-170d for any calendar year, shall apply for such grant
6 to the assessor of the municipality in which the renter resides or to the
7 duly authorized agent of such assessor or municipality on or after April
8 first and not later than October first of each year with respect to such
9 grant for the calendar year preceding each such year, on a form
10 prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
11 Management to the assessor. Municipalities that require notarization of
12 a landlord verification of property rental on an application under this
13 section shall (1) exempt a renter from the requirement if a landlord
14 verification for the same property rental by the same renter has been

15 previously notarized, and (2) shall not delay submission of the
 16 application of an otherwise qualified renter to the Secretary of the Office
 17 of Policy and Management if the renter (A) fails to meet the deadline for
 18 notarizing such landlord verification, or (B) fails to meet the deadline
 19 for submission because of illness or incapacitation as evidenced by a
 20 certificate signed by a physician or an advanced practice registered
 21 nurse. A renter may apply to the secretary prior to December fifteenth
 22 of the claim year for an extension of the application period. The
 23 secretary may grant such extension in the case of extenuating
 24 circumstance due to illness or incapacitation as evidenced by a
 25 certificate signed by a physician or an advanced practice registered
 26 nurse to that extent, or if the secretary determines there is good cause
 27 for doing so. A renter making such application shall present to such
 28 assessor or agent, in substantiation of the renter's application, a copy of
 29 the renter's federal income tax return, and if not required to file a federal
 30 income tax return, such other evidence of qualifying income, receipts for
 31 money received, or cancelled checks, or copies thereof, and any other
 32 evidence the assessor or such agent may require. When the assessor or
 33 agent is satisfied that the applying renter is entitled to a grant, such
 34 assessor or agent shall issue a certificate of grant in such form as the
 35 secretary may prescribe and supply showing the amount of the grant
 36 due.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	12-170f(a)

AGE *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**

The bill has no fiscal impact, as it makes changes to the application process for the Renters' Rebate program. These changes are not anticipated to impact the number of people applying for the program or the value of benefits they receive.

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

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6354*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.*****SUMMARY**

By law, individuals seeking a rebate under the Renters' Rebate Program (see BACKGROUND) apply annually to local assessors or their agents between April 1 and October 1. The rebates are reimbursement for rent and utility payments made in the preceding calendar year.

Under this bill, municipalities that require applicants to notarize their landlord's verification of property rental must exempt applicants from this requirement if they previously notarized the landlord verification for the same property rental.

The bill also prohibits municipalities from delaying the submission of an application to the Office of Policy and Management for an otherwise qualified renter who fails to meet the deadline for (1) notarizing the landlord verification or (2) submitting the application to the municipality, if the failure is due to illness or incapacitation. In the latter case, the renter must have provided a medical certificate signed by a physician or advanced practice registered nurse.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

BACKGROUND***Renters' Rebate Program***

The Renters' Rebate Program provides rent and utility reimbursements to older adult or totally disabled renters whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. It is open to people renting an apartment or room or living in cooperative housing or a mobile home. To be eligible, the recipient or his or her spouse must be (1) age 65 or

older; (2) age 50 or older and the surviving spouse of a renter who at the time of the renter's death had qualified for and was entitled to tax relief, provided such spouse lived with such renter at the time of the renter's death; or (3) age 18 or older with a total and permanent disability. The recipient also must have lived in the state for at least one year.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15 Nay 0 (02/16/2021)