

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2279--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 17, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. PEOPLES-STOKES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Real Property Taxation -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- reported and referred to the Committee on Rules -- Rules Committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the real property tax law, in relation to establishing a senior citizen longtime resident exemption in certain cities

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The real property tax law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 467-k to read as follows:

3 § 467-k. Senior citizen longtime resident exemption. 1. Establishment.  
4 Any city with a population greater than two hundred fifty thousand and  
5 less than three hundred thousand, as determined by the latest decennial  
6 federal census, after conducting a public hearing, may adopt a local law  
7 to grant a senior citizen longtime resident exemption pursuant to this  
8 section. Once a city has enacted a local law adopting the provisions of  
9 this section, the county government in which such city is located may  
10 also enact a local law to provide an exemption in the same manner as  
11 such city.

12 2. Eligibility. a. No exemption shall be granted pursuant to this  
13 section unless:

14 (1) the property is a one-, two- or three-family residential property  
15 located within a United States census tract that has a median income not  
16 exceeding sixteen thousand fifty-six dollars according to the two thou-  
17 sand ten decennial census. A city adopting the provisions of this  
18 section may by local law further limit the exemption to specific areas  
19 within such city experiencing an increase in property values due to new  
20 development occurring therein, which put senior citizen longtime resi-  
21 dents at risk of displacement;

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (2) the property serves as the primary residence of one or more of the  
2 owners;

3 (3) all of the owners are at least sixty-five years of age or older,  
4 or in the case of property owned by husband and wife or by siblings, one  
5 of the owners is at least sixty-five years of age, as of the taxable  
6 status date. At the option of the city, which shall be specified in the  
7 local law adopting the provisions of this section, any person otherwise  
8 qualifying under this section shall not be denied the exemption under  
9 this section if he or she becomes sixty-five years of age after the  
10 appropriate taxable status date and on or before December thirty-first  
11 of the same year;

12 (4) one or more of the owners has owned and resided in the property  
13 for no fewer than twenty-five consecutive years; and

14 (5) the total household income does not exceed thirty thousand dollars  
15 for the latest preceding income tax year prior to the date of applica-  
16 tion for such exemption. The term "income" as used in this section shall  
17 mean the "adjusted gross income" for federal income tax purposes as  
18 reported on the applicant's federal or state income tax return for the  
19 applicable income tax year, subject to any subsequent amendments or  
20 revisions, reduced by distributions, to the extent included in federal  
21 adjusted gross income, received from an individual retirement account  
22 and an individual retirement annuity; provided that if no such return  
23 was filed for the applicable income tax year, "income" shall mean the  
24 adjusted gross income that would have been so reported if such a return  
25 had been filed.

26 3. Calculation of exemption. a. Except as provided in paragraph b of  
27 this subdivision, a senior citizen longtime resident shall be exempt  
28 from taxation and special ad valorem levies for every year in which the  
29 property's current assessment exceeds the "base assessment." For the  
30 purposes of this section the "base assessment" shall be the assessment  
31 that appeared on the assessment roll immediately preceding the first  
32 year in which an exemption was granted pursuant to this section. The  
33 assessor shall annually calculate the exemption by subtracting the "base  
34 assessment" from the current year's assessment.

35 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph a of this subdivision,  
36 no exemption shall be allowed to the extent that the assessment  
37 increased due to one or more of the following events:

38 (1) a physical improvement made to the property;

39 (2) a removal or reduction of an exemption on the eligible taxpayer's  
40 primary residence, including a reduction of the STAR exempt amount  
41 calculated pursuant to subdivision two of section four hundred twenty-  
42 five of this title; or

43 (3) a revaluation that caused the assessment of the eligible taxpay-  
44 er's primary residence to increase by a percentage that is less than or  
45 equal to the applicable change in level of assessment. As used in this  
46 section, the terms "revaluation" and "change in level of assessment"  
47 shall have the same meanings as set forth in sections one hundred two  
48 and twelve hundred twenty of this chapter, respectively.

49 4. Application for such exemption shall be made annually on a form  
50 prescribed by the commissioner. Such application shall be made to the  
51 city assessor on or before the taxable status date. No application for  
52 such exemption shall be granted unless the eligibility criteria of  
53 subdivision two of this section are met.

54 5. In the event that a property granted an exemption pursuant to this  
55 section transfers ownership or otherwise ceases to meet the eligibility  
56 requirements of the exemption in subdivision two of this section, the

1 exemption granted pursuant to this section shall be discontinued. Upon  
2 determining that an exemption granted pursuant to this section should be  
3 discontinued, the assessor shall mail a notice so stating to the owner  
4 or owners thereof at the time and in the manner provided by section five  
5 hundred ten of this chapter.

6 6. The city assessor shall, on or before December first, mail to each  
7 person who was granted an exemption pursuant to this section for the  
8 current city fiscal year, an application form for an exemption and a  
9 notice that such application must be filed no later than the taxable  
10 status date in order for the exemption to be granted or continued. Fail-  
11 ure to mail any such application form or notice or the failure of such  
12 person or persons to receive the same shall not prevent the levy,  
13 collection and enforcement of the payment of the taxes on property owned  
14 by such person or persons.

15 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.