

1 H.934

2 Introduced by Committee on Ways and Means

3 Date:

4 Subject: Taxation; property tax; renter rebate

5 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the
6 renter rebate program by creating a credit structure that is separate from the
7 income sensitivity property tax credit. The new renter credit is based on
8 federal housing data and income limits adjusted for the number of family
9 members in each claim. The credit is available to more than one eligible
10 claimant per household up to a maximum credit of \$2,500.00. The amount of
11 the credit accounts for unrelated adults living in the household, business use of
12 the dwelling, and rental subsidies received.

13 An act relating to renter rebate reform

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 Sec. 1. 32 V.S.A. § 6061 is amended to read:

16 § 6061. DEFINITIONS

17 ~~The following definitions shall apply throughout~~ As used in this chapter
18 unless the context requires otherwise:

19 * * *

1 (18) Notwithstanding subsections (4) and (5) of this section, for the
2 purposes of the renter credit, “income” means federal adjusted gross income
3 increased by the following:

4 (A) trade or business loss from a sole proprietorship, loss from a
5 partnership, loss from a limited liability company or “subchapter S”
6 corporation, loss from a rental property, capital loss, loss from an estate or
7 trust, loss from a real estate mortgage investment conduit, farm rental loss, any
8 loss associated with the sale of business property, and farm losses included in
9 adjusted gross income;

10 (B) exempt interest received or accrued during the taxable year;

11 (C) 75 percent of the portion of Social Security benefits as defined
12 under 26 U.S.C. § 86(d) that is excluded from gross income under 26 U.S.C.
13 § 86 for the taxable year; and

14 (D) to the extent excluded from federal adjusted gross income,
15 educator expenses; certain business expenses of reservists, performing artists,
16 and fee-basis government officials; health savings account deductions; moving
17 expenses for members of the U.S. Armed Forces; the deductible part of self-
18 employment tax; self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, and qualified plan deductions;
19 self-employed health insurance deductions; the penalty for early withdrawal of
20 savings; alimony paid; certain IRA retirement savings deductions; student loan
21 interest deductions; and tuition and fees deductions.

1 (19) “Extremely low-income limit” means the limit as determined by
2 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to 42
3 U.S.C. § 1437a as of June 30 of the taxable year, provided that for claimants
4 who reside in Franklin or Grand Isle county, “extremely low-income limit”
5 means the average of the extremely low-income limits for the State as
6 determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

7 (20) “Very low-income limit” means the limit as determined by the
8 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to 42 U.S.C.
9 § 1437a as of June 30 of the taxable year, provided that for claimants who
10 reside in Franklin or Grand Isle county, “very low-income limit” means the
11 average of the very low-income limits for the State as determined by the
12 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

13 Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 6062 is amended to read:

14 § 6062. NUMBER AND IDENTITY OF CLAIMANTS; APPORTIONMENT

15 ~~(a) In the case of a renter credit claim based solely on allocable rent, the~~
16 ~~claimant shall have rented property during the entire taxable year; provided,~~
17 ~~however, a claimant who owned a homestead which was sold in the taxable~~
18 ~~year prior to April 1 may file a renter credit claim. If two or more individuals~~
19 ~~of a household are able to meet the qualifications for a claimant hereunder,~~
20 ~~they may determine among them who the claimant shall be. Any disagreement~~
21 ~~under this subsection shall be referred to the Commissioner and his or her~~

1 ~~decision shall be final~~ In the case of a renter credit claim, the claimant shall
2 have rented property for the right of occupancy during at least six calendar
3 months, which need not be consecutive, in the taxable year to be eligible for a
4 credit under this chapter. More than one renter credit claimant per household
5 per year may be entitled to relief under this chapter.

6 (b) Only one property tax credit claimant per household per year shall be
7 entitled to relief under this chapter.

8 * * *

9 Sec. 3. 32 V.S.A. § 6066 is amended to read:

10 § 6066. COMPUTATION OF PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

11 * * *

12 (b) ~~An eligible claimant who rented the homestead, whose household~~
13 ~~income does not exceed \$47,000.00, and who submits a certificate of allocable~~
14 ~~rent shall be entitled to a credit against the claimant's tax liability under~~
15 ~~chapter 151 of this title equal to the amount by which the allocable rent upon~~
16 ~~the claimant's housesite exceeds a percentage of the claimant's household~~
17 ~~income for the taxable year as follows:~~

18 ~~If household income (rounded to~~ then the taxpayer is entitled to
19 ~~the nearest dollar) is:~~ credit for allocable rent paid in
20 ~~excess of this percent of that income:~~

21 \$ ~~0 - 9,999.00~~ 2.0

22 \$10,000.00 - 24,999.00 4.5

1 (D) A claimant who is eligible for a renter credit, including pursuant
2 to this subsection (b), and who receives a rental subsidy shall be entitled to a
3 credit in the amount of 10 percent of gross rent paid.

4 (E) A renter credit shall be prorated by the number of calendar
5 months in the taxable year during which the claimant rented the homestead,
6 except for a credit based on gross rent paid under subdivision (D) of this
7 subsection (b)(1), and by the portion of the principal dwelling used for
8 business purposes if the portion used for business purposes includes more than
9 25 percent of the floor space of the dwelling.

10 (2) The Commissioner shall calculate the credit under subdivision (1) of
11 this subsection (b) using the fair market rent corresponding to a number of
12 bedrooms equal to the number of personal exemptions allowed under
13 subdivision 5811(21)(C) of this title for the taxable year, provided that for
14 claimants who resided with any person who was neither the claimant's
15 dependent nor jointly filing spouse at any time during the taxable year, the
16 Commissioner shall reduce the credit by 50 percent.

17 (c) To be eligible for an adjustment or credit under this chapter, the
18 claimant:

19 (1) must have been domiciled in this State during the entire taxable
20 year;

1 provide the certificate to the renter at the time of moving or mail the certificate
2 to the forwarding address if one has been provided by the renter or in the
3 absence of a forwarding address, to the last known address.

4 (c) A certificate under this section shall be in a form prescribed by the
5 Commissioner and shall include the name of the renter, the address and any
6 property tax parcel identification number of the homestead, ~~notice of the~~
7 ~~requirements for eligibility for the property tax credit provided by this chapter~~
8 the information required under subsection (f) of this section, and any
9 additional information that the Commissioner determines is appropriate.

10 (d)(1) An owner who knowingly fails to furnish a certificate to the
11 Department or a renter as required by this section shall be liable to the
12 Commissioner for a penalty of \$200.00 for each failure to act. ~~An owner shall~~
13 ~~be liable to the Commissioner for a penalty equal to the greater of \$200.00 or~~
14 ~~the excess amount reported who:~~

15 (A) willfully furnishes a certificate that reports total allocable rent in
16 excess of the actual amount paid; or

17 (B) reports a total amount of allocable rent that exceeds by 10 percent
18 or more the actual amount paid.

19 (2) Penalties under this subsection shall be assessed and collected in the
20 manner provided in chapter 151 for the assessment and collection of the
21 income tax.

1 (e) ~~Failure to receive a rent certificate shall not disqualify a renter from the~~
2 ~~benefits provided by this chapter. [Repealed.]~~

3 (f) Annually, on or before October 31, the Department shall prepare and
4 make available to a member of the public upon request a database in the form
5 of a sortable spreadsheet that contains the following information for each
6 rental unit for which the Department received a certificate pursuant to this
7 section:

- 8 (1) name of owner or landlord;
- 9 (2) mailing address of landlord;
- 10 (3) location of rental unit;
- 11 (4) type of rental unit;
- 12 (5) number of units in building; and
- 13 (6) School Property Account Number.

14 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, this act shall take effect retroactively on
16 January 1, 2020 and apply to taxable years beginning on and after January 1,
17 2020 (claim filing years 2021 and after).