Craig Bolio, Commissioner

Douglas Farnham, Policy Director

Jake Feldman, Senior Fiscal Analyst

Vermont Department of Taxes

## Renter Rebate Reform Proposal

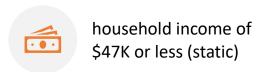


## Why are we here?

- Discuss simplifying and improving outcomes of the Renter Rebate program
- Brief overview of the current program
- Walkthrough of proposed structure
- What do we need to achieve our goal

### Current Law

#### Basic Characteristics



#### **FY19 Statistics**



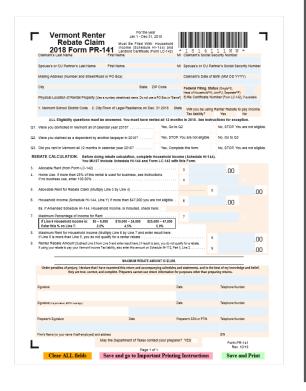
\$8.53 MILLION DISTRIBUTED

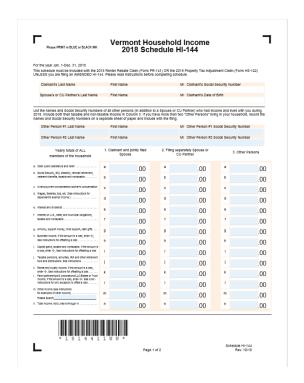


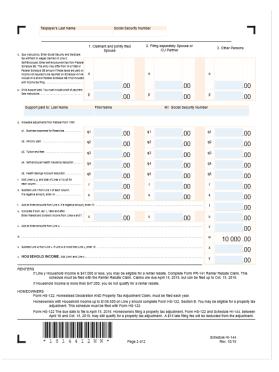
11,919 RECIPIENTS



AVERAGE CREDIT OF \$716





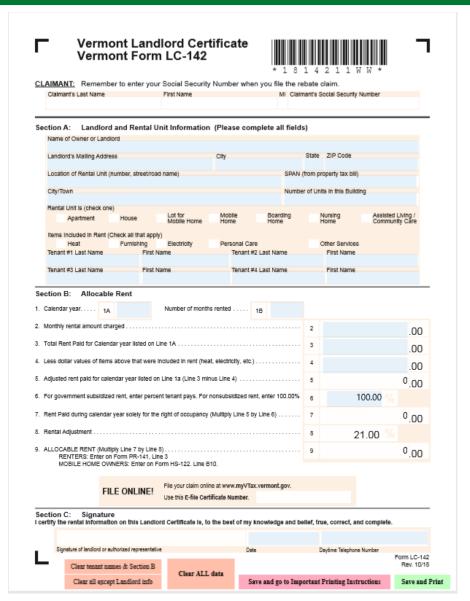


Renter Rebate Claim

Two-Page Household Income Schedule



### But Wait, There's More.....



Landlord Certificate
Which must be filed by your landlord every year...

# Tax Department Reform Proposal

#### Basic Characteristics



USES FILER MODIFIED ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (MAGI)

## HUD FY18 ELIL Income Limits: Start of Phaseout Range

Extreme	ly Low	Income	Limits (	(ELIL) by	y House	hold Siz	e by Co	unty
#People->	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Addison	15,950	18,200	20,780	25,100	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380
Bennington	15,100	17,250	20,780	25,100	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380
<b>Burlington Metro</b>	19,300	22,050	24,800	27,550	29,800	33,740	38,060	42,380
Caledonia	15,100	17,250	20,780	25,100	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380
Essex	15,100	17,250	20,780	25,100	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380
Lamoille	15,100	17,250	20,780	25,100	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380
Orange	15,100	17,250	20,780	25,100	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380
Orleans	15,100	17,250	20,780	25,100	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380
Rutland	15,100	17,250	20,780	25,100	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380
Washington	16,350	18,650	21,000	25,100	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380
Windham	15,100	17,250	20,780	25,100	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380
Windsor	15,650	17,900	20,780	25,100	29,420	33,740	38,060	42,380

## HUD FY18 VLIL Income Limits: End of Phaseout Range

Very Low Income Limits (VLIL) by Household Size by County									
#People->	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Addison	26,550	30,350	34,150	37,900	40,950	44,000	47,000	50,050	
Bennington	25,200	28,800	32,400	35,950	38,850	41,750	44,600	47,500	
<b>Burlington Metro</b>	32,150	36,750	41,350	45,900	49,600	53,250	56,950	60,600	
Caledonia	25,200	28,800	32,400	35,950	38,850	41,750	44,600	47,500	
Essex	25,200	28,800	32,400	35,950	38,850	41,750	44,600	47,500	
Lamoille	25,200	28,800	32,400	35,950	38,850	41,750	44,600	47,500	
Orange	25,200	28,800	32,400	35,950	38,850	41,750	44,600	47,500	
Orleans	25,200	28,800	32,400	35,950	38,850	41,750	44,600	47,500	
Rutland	25,200	28,800	32,400	35,950	38,850	41,750	44,600	47,500	
Washington	27,200	31,100	35,000	38,850	42,000	45,100	48,200	51,300	
Windham	25,200	28,800	32,400	35,950	38,850	41,750	44,600	47,500	
Windsor	26,100	29,800	33,550	37,250	40,250	43,250	46,200	49,200	

## HUD FY18 Fair Market Rents (monthly)

County	Efficiency	One-Bedroom	Two-Bedroom	Three-Bedroom	Four-Bedroom
Addison County, VT	784	870	1021	1315	1580
Bennington County, VT	850	874	1004	1362	1367
Burlington-South Burlington, VT MSA	920	1121	1442	1921	2025
Caledonia County, VT	697	702	903	1132	1230
Essex County, VT	609	623	794	995	1081
Lamoille County, VT	728	848	1013	1270	1658
Orange County, VT	759	764	977	1254	1367
Orleans County, VT	601	667	791	992	1119
Rutland County, VT	755	772	929	1213	1377
Washington County, VT	803	808	1064	1338	1608
Windham County, VT	722	835	1051	1318	1585
Windsor County, VT	759	882	1074	1467	1732
Burlinton Metro Area is Chittenden County	, Franklin County, and	Grand Isle County			

#### Credit Calculation

• Example Rent/Base Credit Amounts: FY18 Windsor County

	1 exemption	2 exemptions	3 exemptions	4 exemptions
Monthly Average	\$882	\$1,074	\$1,467	\$1,732
Annualized Rent	\$10,584	\$12,888	\$17,604	\$20,784
Multiply by .10	\$1,058	\$1,289	\$1,760	\$2,078

- Example Credit Calculations: Married w/ 1
   Dependent
  - Full credit will be received up to \$20,780 of Filer MAGI with a smooth phase-out ending at \$33,550. The Department would calculate the exact credit amount.
  - \$25,000 income = \$1,178 credit;
    \$28,000 income = \$765 credit;
    \$31,000 income = \$351 credit

#### FY21 Estimates



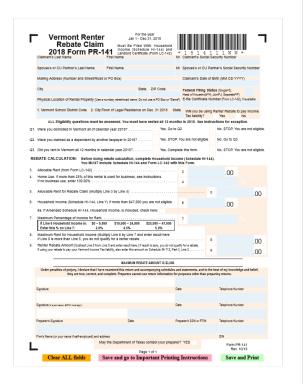
\$8.81 MILLION TOTAL COST

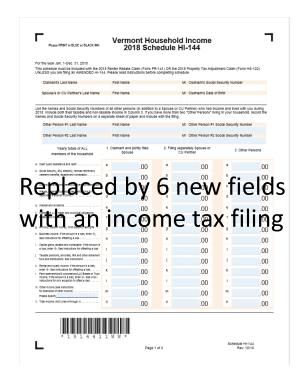


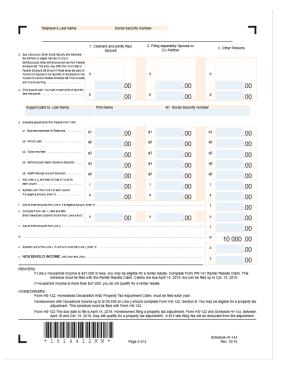
11,993 RECIPIENTS



AVERAGE CREDIT OF \$735



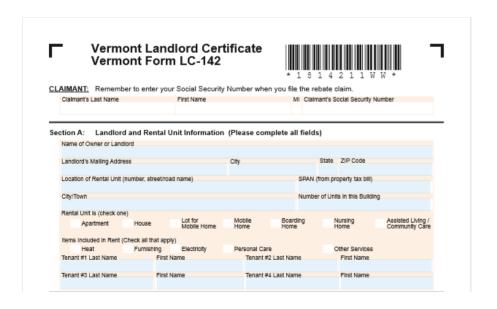




Renter Rebate Claim

Two-Page Household Income Schedule





And what about that Landlord Certificate?

Can be dramatically simplified and decoupled from initial credit processing

### Why this approach?



Dramatically simplifies the application process for low income Vermonters



Streamlines Department processing to get credits to eligible renters faster



Focuses more benefit on low income families



Allows unrelated renters to receive individual credits

### Side-by-Side



#### **Old structure**

\$716

Average credit

\$8.53 million

Total disbursed

11,919

Recipients



#### **New Structure**

\$735

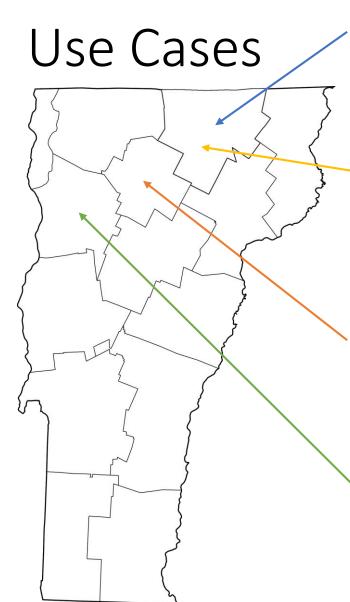
Average credit

\$8.81 million

Total disbursed

11,993

Recipients



Case 1: Single and renting in Orleans County. Household income is \$10,000/yr. Rent is \$650/mo.

Current Law Credit: \$1,188
Reform Credit: \$800

Case 2: Married w/ 1 dependent and renting in Orleans County. Household income is \$10,000/yr. Rent is \$650/mo.

Current Law Credit: \$1,188 Reform Credit: \$1,190

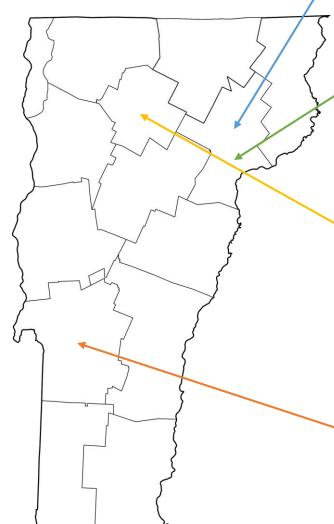
Case 3: Single person in Lamoille County. Household income is \$20,000/yr. Rent is \$700/mo.

Current Law Credit: \$864 Reform Credit: \$524

Case 4: Single w/ 2 dependents and renting in Chittenden County. Household income is \$30,000/yr. Rent is \$1,000/mo.

Current Law Credit: \$1,020 Reform Credit: \$1,581

### **Use Cases**



Case 5: Single and renting in Caledonia County. Household income is \$25,000/yr. Rent is \$700/mo.

Current Law Credit: \$514 Reform Credit: \$17

Case 6: Married in Caledonia County. Household income is \$16,000/yr. Rent is \$600/mo.

Current Law Credit: \$792 Reform Credit: \$1,084

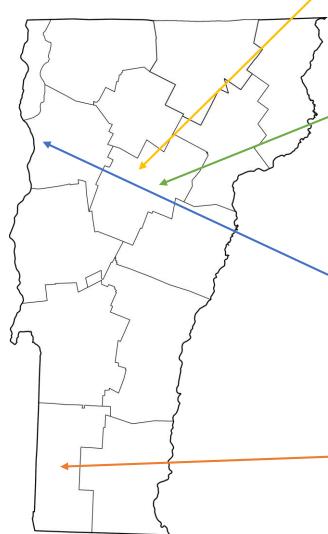
Case 7: Married w/ 1 dependent in Lamoille County. Household income is \$20,000/yr. Rent is \$1,100/mo.

Current Law Credit: \$1,872 Reform Credit: \$1,524

Case 8: Single w/ 1 dependent in Rutland County. Household income is \$28,500/yr. Rent is \$800/mo.

Current Law Credit: \$591 Reform Credit: \$29

#### Use Cases



Case 9: Single and renting in Washington County. Household income is \$35,000/yr. Rent is \$850/mo.

Current Law Credit: \$392 Reform Credit: \$0

Case 10: Married w/ 4 dependents and renting in Washington County. Household income is \$40,000/yr. Rent is \$1650/mo.

Current Law Credit: \$2,158 Reform Credit: \$866

Case 11: Three singles renting together in Chittenden County. Household income is \$60,000/yr. Rent is \$2,000/mo.

**Current Law Credit:** \$0

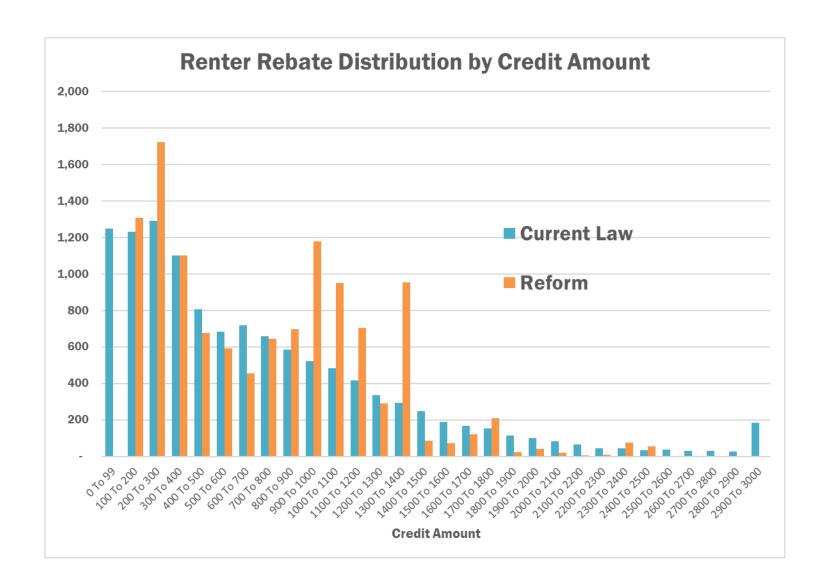
Reform Credit: \$1,272 per person

Case 12: Single and renting in Bennington County. Household income is \$43,000/yr. Rent is \$2,500/mo.

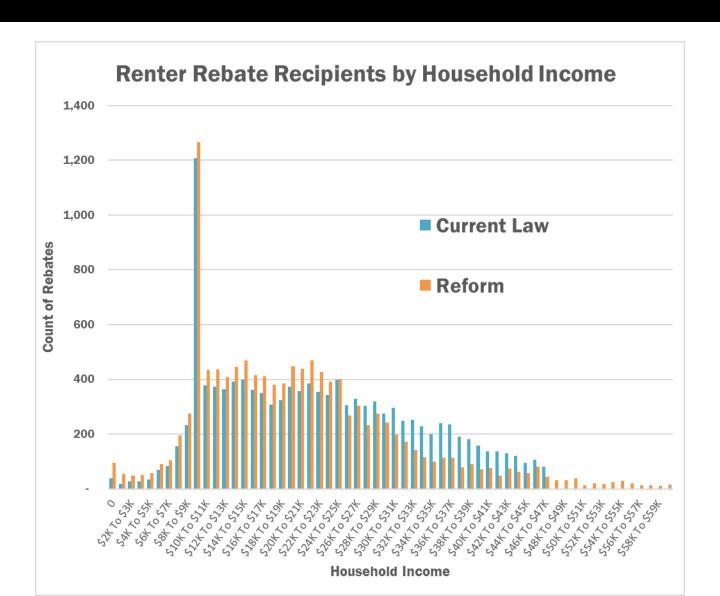
Current Law Credit: \$3,000

Reform Credit: \$0

#### Side by Side: How will it impact the size of credits?



#### Side by Side: Who will be getting the credits?



#### Side by Side: Average Credit by Household Income

#### **Counts and Average Rebate by Household Income Band**

Household Income				Current Law Average	Reform Count (Households)	Reform Average (Households)		Reform Counts (Recipients)		
Under 10,000		1,896	\$	557	2,219	\$	543	2,237	\$	538
10,000 - 19,999		3,618	\$	678	4,073	\$	840	4,233	\$	809
20,000 - 29,999		3,368	\$	780	3,185	\$	791	3,449	\$	730
30,000 - 39,999		2,228	\$	776	980	\$	983	1,198	\$	804
40,000 - 47,000		809	\$	822	347	\$	1,112	444	\$	869
Over 47,000	NA		NA		362	\$	879	432	\$	737
Total		11,919	\$	716	11,166	\$	789	11,993	\$	735

Based on 2018 Claims

Current Law totals are by household. 1 claim allowed

Reform totals are presented by household (middle two columns) and by recipient (right two columns)

What we need to achieve our goal

Support the Department's proposed language to amend title 32 and improve the renter rebate program