

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION, 2008

ENROLLED

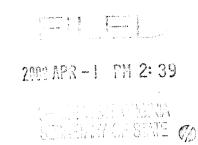
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 239

(By Senators Tomblin, Mr. President, and Caruth, By Request of the Executive)

[Passed March 8, 2008; to take effect July 1, 2008.]



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AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §11-6H-1, §11-6H-2, §11-6H-3, §11-6H-4, §11-6H-5, §11-6H-6, §11-6H-7, §11-6H-8, §11-6H-9, §11-6H-10 and §11-6H-11; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §11-21-24, all relating to the taxation of real property owned by senior citizens; providing definitions; providing deferment for payment of property tax

increment; specifying that the senior citizen property tax relief tax credit may be applied in lieu of such deferment; authorizing rules; requiring application for the deferment; providing for deferment renewal and waiver of deferment; providing procedures for the review and approval of application by the assessor; providing an appeals procedure; authorizing creation of a lien on property for which deferment is approved; specifying conditions for liens and lien payment and termination; requiring the Tax Commissioner to prescribe necessary forms and instructions; authorizing the Tax Commissioner to propose legislative rules; establishing criminal penalties; authorizing severability of provisions of the article; creating the Senior Citizen Property Tax Relief Credit Act; providing definitions; providing tax credit against personal income tax for payment of a specified property tax increment under certain circumstances; specifying that the senior citizen property tax payment deferment may be applied in lieu of such credit; requiring application for the tax credit; providing for tax credit renewal; providing procedures for the review and approval of application by the assessor; providing an appeals procedure; requiring the Tax Commissioner to prescribe necessary forms and instructions; and establishing criminal penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated \$11-6H-1, \$11-6H-2, \$11-6H-3, \$11-6H-4, \$11-6H-5, \$11-6H-6, \$11-6H-7, \$11-6H-8, \$11-6H-9, \$11-6H-10 and \$11-6H-11; and that said code be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated \$11-21-24, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 6H. SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT DEFERMENT ACT.

§11-6H-1. Short title.

- 1 This article shall be known as the Senior Citizen
- 2 Property Tax Payment Deferment Act.

§11-6H-2. Definitions.

- 1 As used in this article, the following terms shall have
- 2 the meaning ascribed to them in this section, unless the
- 3 context in which the term is used clearly requires a
- 4 different meaning or a specific different definition is
- 5 provided:
- 6 (1) "Assessed value" means the value of property as
- 7 determined under article three of this chapter.
- 8 (2) "Deferment" means a delay or postponement.
- 9 (3) "Homestead" means a homestead qualified for the
- 10 homestead property tax exemption authorized in article
- six-b of this chapter, but limited to a single-family
- 12 residential house, including a mobile or manufactured
- or modular home, and the land, not exceeding one acre,
- 14 surrounding such structure that is owned by the owner
- 15 of the single-family residential house, including a
- 16 mobile or manufactured or modular home; or a mobile
- 17 or manufactured or modular home regardless of
- 18 whether the land upon which such mobile or
- 19 manufactured or modular home is situated is owned by
- 20 another.
- 21 (4) "Owner" means the person who is possessed of the
- 22 homestead, whether in fee or for life. A person seized
- 23 or entitled in fee subject to a mortgage or deed of trust
- shall be considered the owner. A person who has an
- 25 equitable estate of freehold, or is a purchaser of a
- 26 freehold estate who is in possession before transfer of
- 27 legal title shall also be considered the owner. Personal
- 28 property mortgaged or pledged shall, for the purpose of

- 29 taxation, be considered the property of the party in
- 30 possession.
- 31 (5) "Sixty-five years of age or older" includes a
- 32 person who attains the age of sixty-five on or before the
- thirtieth day of June following the July first assessment
- 34 day.
- 35 (6) "Tax increment" means the increase of ad valorem
- 36 taxes assessed on the homestead, determined as the
- 37 difference between the ad valorem taxes assessed on the
- 38 homestead for the current tax year and the ad valorem
- 39 taxes assessed on the homestead for the tax year
- 40 immediately preceding the tax year for which the
- 41 taxpayer's application for property tax deferment
- 42 specified in this article is approved by the assessor, or
- 43 otherwise finally approved in accordance with the
- 44 provisions of this article.
- 45 (7) "Used and occupied exclusively for residential
- purposes" means that the property is used as an abode,
- 47 dwelling or habitat for more than six consecutive
- 48 months of the calendar year prior to the date of
- 49 application by the owner thereof; and that subsequent
- to making application for deferment, the property is
- 51 used only as an abode, dwelling or habitat to the
- 52 exclusion of any commercial use.
- 53 (8) "Tax year" means the calendar year following the
- 54 July first assessment day.

§11-6H-3. Property tax payment deferment.

- 1 (a) The following homesteads shall qualify for the
- 2 deferment provided in subsection (b) of this section:
- 3 (1) Any homestead owned by an owner sixty-five

- 4 years of age or older and used and occupied exclusively
- 5 for residential purposes by such owner; and
- 6 (2) Any homestead that:
- 7 (A) Is owned by an owner sixty-five years of age or
- 8 older who, as a result of illness, accident or infirmity, is
- 9 residing with a family member or is a resident of a
- 10 nursing home, personal care home, rehabilitation center
- 11 or similar facility;
- 12 (B) Was most recently used and occupied exclusively
- 13 for residential purposes by the owner or the owner's
- 14 spouse; and
- 15 (C) Has been retained by the owner for
- 16 noncommercial purposes.
- 17 (b) (1) For tax years commencing on or after the first
- day of January, two thousand nine, the owner of a
- 19 homestead meeting the qualifications set forth in
- 20 subsection (a) of this section may apply for a deferment
- 21 in the payment of the tax increment of ad valorem taxes
- 22 assessed under the authority of article three of this
- 23 chapter on the homestead: Provided, That the
- 24 deferment may be authorized only when the tax
- 25 increment is the greater of three hundred dollars or ten
- 26 percent or more: *Provided*, *however*, That all deferred
- taxes are not subject to any rate of interest.
- 28 (2) In lieu of the deferment of the tax increment
- 29 authorized pursuant to this article, a taxpayer entitled
- 30 to such deferment may elect to instead apply the senior
- 31 citizen property tax relief credit authorized under
- 32 section twenty-four, article twenty-one of this chapter.
- 33 Any taxpayer making such election shall be fully
- 34 subject to the terms and limitations set forth in section

35 twenty four, article twenty-one of this chapter.

§11-6H-4. Application for deferment; renewals; waiver of deferment.

- 1 (a) General. No deferment may be allowed under
- 2 this article unless an application for deferment is filed
- 3 with the assessor of the county in which the homestead
- 4 is located, on or before the first day of November
- 5 following mailing of the tax ticket in which the tax
- 6 increment that is the subject of the application is
- 7 contained, such tax ticket being mailed pursuant to
- 8 section eight, article one, chapter eleven-a of this code.
- 9 In the case of sickness, absence or other disability of the
- owner, the application may be filed by the owner or his
- or her duly authorized agent.
- 12 (b) Renewals. After the owner has filed an
- 13 application for deferment with his or her assessor, there
- shall be no need for that owner to refile an application
- 15 for the taxes so deferred.
- 16 (c) Waiver of deferment. Any person otherwise
- 17 qualified who does not apply for deferment from
- payment of a tax increment on or before the first day of
- 19 November as specified in this article is considered to
- 20 have waived his or her right to apply for deferment
- 21 from such payment for that tax year.

§11-6H-5. Determination; notice of denial of application for deferment.

- 1 (a) The assessor shall, as soon as practicable after an
- 2 application for deferment is filed, review that
- 3 application and either approve or deny it. The assessor
- 4 shall approve or disapprove an application for
- 5 deferment within thirty days of receipt. Any application

- 6 not approved or denied within thirty days is deemed
- 7 approved. If the application is denied, the assessor shall
- 8 promptly, but not later than the first day of January,
- 9 serve the owner with written notice explaining why the
- 10 application was denied and furnish a form for filing
- 11 with the county commission, should the owner desire to
- 12 take an appeal. The notice required or authorized by
- this section shall be served on the owner or his or her
- 14 authorized representative either by personal service or
- 15 by certified mail.
- 16 (b) In the event that the assessor has information
- 17 sufficient to form a reasonable belief that an owner.
- after having been originally granted a deferment, is no
- 19 longer eligible for the deferment, he or she shall, within
- thirty days after forming this reasonable belief, revoke
- 21 the deferment and serve the owner with written notice
- 22 explaining the reasons for the revocation and furnish a
- 23 form for filing with the county commission should the
- 24 owner desire to take an appeal.

§11-6H-6. Appeals procedure.

- 1 (a) Notice of appeal; thirty days. Any owner
- 2 aggrieved by the denial of his or her claim for
- 3 application for deferment or the revocation of a
- 4 previously approved deferment may appeal to the
- 5 county commission of the county within which the
- 6 property is situated. All such appeals shall be filed
- 7 within thirty days after the owner's receipt of written
- 8 notice of the denial of an application or the revocation
- 9 of a previously approved deferment, as applicable,
- 10 pursuant to section five of this article.
- 11 (b) Review; determination; appeal. The county
- 12 commission shall complete its review and issue its
- determination as soon as practicable after receipt of the

- 14 notice of appeal, but in no event later than the twenty-
- eighth day of February following the tax year for which
- 16 the deferment was sought. In conducting its review, the
- 17 county commission may hold a hearing on the
- 18 application. The assessor or the owner may apply to the
- 19 circuit court of the county for review of the
- 20 determination of the county commission in the same
- 21 manner as is provided for appeals from the county
- 22 commission in section twenty-five, article three of this
- 23 chapter.

§11-6H-7. Termination of deferment.

- 1 Any deferment approved in accordance with the
- 2 provisions of section five of this article shall terminate
- 3 immediately when any of the following events occur:
- 4 (1) The death of the owner of the property for which
- 5 the deferment was authorized;
- 6 (2) The sale of the property for which the deferment
- 7 was approved;
- 8 (3) A determination by the assessor that the property
- 9 for which the deferment was approved no longer
- 10 qualifies for the deferment in accordance with the
- 11 provisions of this article;
- 12 (4) The owner of the property for which the deferment
- was approved fails to maintain a fire insurance policy
- on the property that, if the property is destroyed, is
- sufficient to pay all debts for which the property is used
- 16 as collateral and all tax increments that have been
- deferred and other charges provided by law;
- 18 (5) The owner of the property for which the deferment
- was approved fails to maintain a flood insurance policy

- that, if the property is destroyed, is sufficient to pay all
- 21 debts for which the property is used as collateral and
- 22 all tax increments that have been deferred and other
- 23 charges provided by law: *Provided*, That the provisions
- of this subdivision shall apply only to the following
- 25 property: (A) Property within a flood elevation that has
- 26 a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded each
- 27 year, as determined by the federal Emergency
- 28 Management Agency; (B) property within a one
- 29 hundred year floodplain as designated by the Federal
- 30 Emergency Management Agency; or (C) property within
- 31 a special flood hazard area as determined by the
- 32 Federal Emergency Management Agency or as shown
- 33 on the most current National Flood Insurance Program
- 34 flood hazard boundary map, flood insurance rate map,
- or flood boundary and floodway map; or
- 36 (6) The tax increments deferred from payment and
- other charges provided by law are paid in full.

§11-6H-8. Property tax books; lien on property.

- 1 (a) *Property book entry.* The amount deferred from
- 2 payment of the tax increment shall be shown and
- 3 continued on the property books until paid.
- 4 (b) Lien; statement to homestead owner. The
- 5 amount of the tax increment deferred from payment,
- 6 and other charges as provided by law, shall be a lien on
- 7 the real property for which the tax was assessed that
- 8 continues until paid in full, and is not subject to the
- 9 requirements for the collection of taxes provided in
- 10 chapter eleven-a of this code. For purposes of this
- 11 article.
- 12 (c) When lien is to be paid. The lien required by this
- 13 section shall be paid no later than ninety days following

- 14 the occurrence of any one of the events set forth in
- 15 section seven of this article.
- 16 (d) Limitation on execution on lien and limitation on
- 17 transfer of lien. No county or levying body nor any
- official, agent or representative thereof, shall execute
- 19 upon or collect upon any lien created pursuant to this
- 20 article until one of the conditions for termination of
- 21 deferment set forth in section seven of this article has
- 22 occurred. No county or levying body nor any official,
- 23 agent or representative thereof, shall assign or transfer
- 24 any right to execute upon or collect upon any such lien
- 25 to any other person or entity until one of the conditions
- 26 for termination of deferment set forth in section seven
- 27 of this article has occurred.

§11-6H-9. Forms, instructions and regulations.

- 1 The Tax Commissioner shall prescribe and supply all
- 2 necessary instructions and forms for administration of
- 3 this article. Additionally, the Tax Commissioner may
- 4 propose rules for legislative approval in accordance
- 5 with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-
- 6 nine-a of this code, as the Tax Commissioner considers
- 7 necessary for the implementation of this article.

§11-6H-10. Criminal penalties; restitution.

- 1 (a) False or fraudulent claim for deferment. Any
- 2 owner who willfully files a fraudulent application for
- 3 deferment and any person who knowingly assisted in
- 4 the preparation or filing of such fraudulent application
- 5 for deferment or who knowingly supplied information
- 6 upon which the fraudulent application for deferment
- 7 was prepared or allowed is guilty of a misdemeanor
- 8 and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less
- 9 than two hundred fifty nor more than five hundred

- dollars, or imprisoned in jail for not more than one year, or both fined and imprisoned.
- 12 (b) Failure to notify assessor. Any owner who
- knowingly, prior to the next first day of July, fails to
- 14 notify the assessor of the county wherein property
- subject to the tax increment deferment is located that
- 16 title to that property or a portion thereof was
- transferred by deed, grant, sale, gift, will or by the laws
- 18 of this state regulating descent and distribution or that
- 19 the property is no longer used and occupied for
- 20 residential purposes exclusively by the owner is guilty
- 21 of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
- 22 fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned
- 23 in jail for not more than one year or both fined and
- 24 imprisoned.
- 25 (c) In addition to the criminal penalties provided
- above, upon conviction of any of the above offenses, the
- 27 court shall order that the defendant make restitution
- 28 unto the county for all taxes not paid due to an
- 29 improper deferment, or continuation of a deferment, for
- 30 the owner.

§11-6H-11. Severability.

- 1 If any provision of this article or the application
- 2 thereof to any person or circumstance is held
- 3 unconstitutional or invalid, such unconstitutionality or
- 4 invalidity does not affect, impair or invalidate other
- 5 provisions or applications of the article, and to this end
- 6 the provisions of this article are declared to be
- 7 severable.

ARTICLE 21. PERSONAL INCOME TAX.

§11-21-24. Senior citizen property tax relief credit.

- 1 (a) Definitions. As used in this section, the
- 2 following terms shall have the meaning ascribed to
- 3 them in this subsection, unless the context in which the
- 4 term is used clearly requires a different meaning or a
- 5 specific different definition is provided:
- 6 (1) "Assessed value" means the value of property as 7 determined under article three of this chapter.
- 8 (2) "Real property taxes paid" means, for the tax
- 9 years beginning on or after the first day January, two
- 10 thousand nine, the aggregate of regular levies, excess
- 11 levies and bond levies extended against the homestead
- that are paid during the calendar year and determined
- 13 after any application of any discount for early payment
- of taxes but before application of any penalty or
- interest for late payment of property taxes.
- 16 (3) "Senior citizen property tax relief tax credit"
- means the tax credit authorized under this section.
- 18 (4) "Gross household income" means gross household
- 19 income as defined in section twenty-three of this
- 20 article.
- 21 (5) "Homestead" means a homestead qualified for the
- 22 homestead property tax exemption authorized in article
- 23 six-b of this chapter, but limited to a single-family
- 24 residential house, including a mobile or manufactured
- 25 or modular home, and the land, not exceeding one acre,
- 26 surrounding such structure that is owned by the owner
- 27 of the single-family residential house, including a
- 28 mobile or manufactured or modular home; or a mobile
- 29 or manufactured or modular home regardless of
- 30 whether the land upon which such mobile or
- 31 manufactured or modular home is situated is owned by
- 32 another.

- 33 (6) "Owner" or "homeowner" means the person who 34 is possessed of the homestead, whether in fee or for life. A person seized or entitled in fee subject to a mortgage 35 36 or deed of trust shall be considered the owner. A person who has an equitable estate of freehold, or is a 37 38 purchaser of a freehold estate who is in possession 39 before transfer of legal title shall also be considered the 40 owner. Personal property mortgaged or pledged shall, for the purpose of taxation, be considered the property 41 42 of the party in possession.
- 43 (7) "Sixty-five years of age or older" includes a 44 person who attains the age of sixty-five on or before the 45 thirtieth day of June following the July first assessment 46 day.
- 47 (8) "Tax increment" means the increase of ad valorem 48 taxes assessed on the homestead, determined as the difference between the ad valorem taxes assessed on the 49 50 homestead for the current tax year and the ad valorem 51 taxes assessed on the homestead for the tax year 52immediately preceding the tax year for which the 53 taxpayer's application for tax credit specified in this section is approved by the assessor, or otherwise finally 54 55 approved in accordance with the provisions of this 56 article.
- 57 (9) "Tax year" means the property tax calendar year 58 following the July first assessment day.
- 59 (10) "Used and occupied exclusively for residential 60 purposes" means that the property is used as an abode, 61 dwelling or habitat for more than six consecutive 62 months of the calendar year prior to the date of 63 application by the owner thereof; and that subsequent 64 to making application for tax credit, the property is 65 used only as an abode, dwelling or habitat to the

- 66 exclusion of any commercial use.
- 67 (b) *Refundable credit*. — Subject to the requirements and limitations of this section, for the tax years 68 69 beginning on or after the first day of January, two 70 thousand nine, any homeowner having a gross 71 household income equal to or less than twenty-five 72 thousand dollars for the tax year, living in his or her 73 homestead shall be allowed a refundable credit against 74 the taxes imposed by this article equal to the amount of 75 real property taxes paid that are attributable to the tax 76 increment of ad valorem taxes assessed under the 77 authority of article three of this chapter on the 78 homestead: Provided, That the gross household income 79 shall be adjusted annually in accordance with the 80 consumer price index. The credit shall be applied against the personal income tax in the personal income 81 82 tax year of the taxpayer when the property tax 83 increment was actually paid.
- (1) Due to the administrative cost of processing, the refundable credit authorized by this section may not be refunded if less than ten dollars.
- 87 (2) The credit for each property tax year shall be 88 claimed by filing a claim for refund within twelve 89 months after the real property taxes are paid on the 90 homestead.
- 91 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of section twenty-92 one or section twenty-three of this article, for property 93 tax years that begin on or after the first day of January, 94 two thousand nine, a homeowner is eligible to benefit 95 from this section, section twenty-one or twenty-three of 96 this article, whichever section provides the most benefit 97 as determined by the homeowner. No homeowner may 98 receive benefits under this section, section twenty-one

- 99 or twenty-three of this article during the same taxable
- 100 year. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to
- deny any lawfully entitled taxpayer of the homestead
- 102 exemption provided in section three, article six-b of
- this chapter.
- 104 (c) Qualification for credit. —
- 105 (1) The following homesteads shall qualify for the tax
- 106 credit provided in this section:
- 107 (A) Any homestead owned by an owner sixty-five
- 108 years of age or older and used and occupied exclusively
- 109 for residential purposes by such owner; and
- (B) Any homestead that:
- 111 (i) Is owned by an owner sixty-five years of age or
- older who, as a result of illness, accident or infirmity, is
- 113 residing with a family member or is a resident of a
- 114 nursing home, personal care home, rehabilitation center
- or similar facility;
- (ii) Was most recently used and occupied exclusively
- for residential purposes by the owner or the owner's
- 118 spouse; and
- 119 (iii) Has been retained by the owner for
- 120 noncommercial purposes.
- 121 (2) (A) For tax years commencing on or after the first
- day of January, two thousand nine, the owner of a
- 123 homestead meeting the qualifications set forth in
- subdivision (1) of this subsection may apply for a tax
- 125 credit in the amount of the tax increment of ad valorem
- taxes assessed under the authority of article three of
- this chapter on the homestead, subject to the limitations

- 128 set forth in this section: *Provided*, That the tax credit
- may be authorized only when the tax increment is the
- greater of three hundred dollars or ten percent or more.
- 131 (B) In lieu of the tax credit authorized under this
- section, a taxpayer entitled to such credit may elect to
- instead apply the deferment of the tax increment
- authorized pursuant to article six-h of this chapter. Any
- taxpayer making such election shall be fully subject to
- 136 the terms and limitations set forth in article six-h of
- this chapter.
- 138 (d) Application for tax credit; renewals; waiver of tax
- 139 credit. —
- 140 (1) General. No tax credit may be allowed under
- this section unless an application for tax credit is filed
- with the assessor of the county in which the homestead
- 143 is located, on or before the first day of November
- 144 following mailing of the tax ticket in which the tax
- increment that is the subject of the application is
- 146 contained, such tax ticket being mailed pursuant to
- section eight, article one, chapter eleven-a of this code.
- 148 In the case of sickness, absence or other disability of the
- owner, the application may be filed by the owner or his
- or her duly authorized agent.
- 151 (2) Renewals. After the owner has filed an
- application for tax credit with his or her assessor, there
- shall be no need for that owner to refile an application
- for the tax credit. However, the taxpayer shall in all
- cases be required to file a personal income tax return in
- order to claim the credit in any tax year.
- 157 (e) Determination; notice of denial of application for
- 158 tax credit. —

- 159 (1) The assessor shall, as soon as practicable after an 160 application for tax credit is filed, review that 161 application and either approve or deny it. If the 162 application is denied, the assessor shall promptly, but 163 not later than the first day of January, serve the owner 164 with written notice explaining why the application was 165 denied and furnish a form for filing with the county 166 commission, should the owner desire to take an appeal. The notice required or authorized by this section shall 167 168 be served on the owner or his or her authorized 169 representative either by personal service or by certified 170 mail. The assessor shall approve or disapprove an application for tax credit within thirty days of receipt. 171 172 Any application not approved or denied within thirty 173 days is deemed approved.
- 174 (2) In the event that the assessor has information 175 sufficient to form a reasonable belief that an owner, 176 after having been originally granted a tax credit, is no longer eligible for the tax credit, he or she shall, within 177 178 thirty days after forming this reasonable belief, revoke the tax credit and serve the owner with written notice 179 explaining the reasons for the revocation and furnish a 180 form for filing with the county commission should the 181 182 owner desire to take an appeal.

(f) Appeals procedure. —

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184 (1) Notice of appeal; thirty days. — Any owner 185 aggrieved by the denial of his or her claim for application for tax credit or the revocation of a 186 187 previously approved tax credit may appeal to the county commission of the county within which the 188 property is situated. All such appeals shall be filed 189 within thirty days after the owner's receipt of written 190 191 notice of the denial of an application or the revocation of a previously approved tax credit, as applicable, 192

- 193 pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.
- 194 (2) Review; determination; appeal. The county
- 195 commission shall complete its review and issue its
- 196 determination as soon as practicable after receipt of the
- 197 notice of appeal, but in no event later than the twenty-
- 198 eighth day of February following the tax year for which
- the tax credit was sought. In conducting its review, the
- 200 county commission may hold a hearing on the
- 201 application. The assessor or the owner may apply to the
- 202 circuit court of the county for review of the
- 203 determination of the county commission in the same
- 204 manner as is provided for appeals from the county
- 205 commission in section twenty-five, article three of this
- 206 chapter.
- 207 (g) Termination of tax credit. —
- 208 (1) Any tax credit approved in accordance with the
- 209 provisions of this section shall terminate immediately
- 210 when any of the following events occur:
- 211 (A) The death of the owner of the property for which
- 212 the tax credit was authorized:
- (B) The sale of the property for which the tax credit
- was approved; or
- 215 (C) A determination by the assessor that the property
- 216 for which the tax credit was approved no longer
- 217 qualifies for the tax credit in accordance with the
- 218 provisions of this section.
- 219 (h) Forms, instructions and regulations. The Tax
- 220 Commissioner shall prescribe and supply all necessary
- 221 instructions and forms for administration of this
- 222 section. Additionally, the Tax Commissioner may

- propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twentynine-a of this code as the Tax Commissioner considers necessary for the implementation of this section.
- 227 (i) Criminal penalties; restitution. —
- 228 (1) False or fraudulent claim for tax credit. — Any 229 owner who willfully files a fraudulent application for 230 tax credit and any person who knowingly assisted in the preparation or filing of such fraudulent application 231 232for tax credit or who knowingly supplied information upon which the fraudulent application for tax credit 233 234 was prepared or allowed is guilty of a misdemeanor 235 and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less 236 than two hundred fifty nor more than five hundred 237 dollars, or imprisoned in jail for not more than one year, or both fined and imprisoned. 238
 - (2) In addition to the criminal penalties provided above, upon conviction of any of the above offenses, the court shall order that the defendant make restitution unto this state for all taxes not paid due to an improper tax credit, or continuation of a tax credit, for the owner and interest thereon at the legal rate until paid.

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The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled. Chairman Senate Committee Chairman House Committee Originated in the Senate. To take effect July 1, 2008. Clerk of the Senate Clerk of the House of Delegates of the Senate Speaker House of Delegates The within Ls appliful 2008.

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR