

Senate Bill No. 480

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(By Senators Gaunch, D. Hall, Karnes, Maynard, Plymale, Sypolt, Walters, Woelfel and Snyder)

[Introduced February 13, 2015; referred to the Committee on Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend and reenact §11-21-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to exempting from personal income tax \$20,000 received by retired state employees from the Public Employees Retirement System and by retired teachers from Teachers Retirement System.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §11-21-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 21. PERSONAL INCOME TAX.

PART I. GENERAL.

§11-21-12. West Virginia adjusted gross income of resident individual.

(a) *General.* -- The West Virginia adjusted gross income of a resident individual means his or her federal adjusted gross income as defined in the laws of the United States for the taxable year with the modifications specified in this section.

(b) *Modifications increasing federal adjusted gross income.* -- There shall be added to federal adjusted gross income unless already included therein the following items:

1 (1) Interest income on obligations of any state other than this state or of a political
2 subdivision of any other state unless created by compact or agreement to which this state is a party;

3 (2) Interest or dividend income on obligations or securities of any authority, commission or
4 instrumentality of the United States, which the laws of the United States exempt from federal income
5 tax but not from state income taxes;

6 (3) Any deduction allowed when determining federal adjusted gross income for federal
7 income tax purposes for the taxable year that is not allowed as a deduction under this article for the
8 taxable year;

9 (4) Interest on indebtedness incurred or continued to purchase or carry obligations or
10 securities the income from which is exempt from tax under this article, to the extent deductible in
11 determining federal adjusted gross income;

12 (5) Interest on a depository institution tax-exempt savings certificate which is allowed as an
13 exclusion from federal gross income under Section 128 of the Internal Revenue Code, for the federal
14 taxable year;

15 (6) The amount of a lump sum distribution for which the taxpayer has elected under Section
16 402(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to be separately taxed for federal income
17 tax purposes; and

18 (7) Amounts withdrawn from a medical savings account established by or for an individual
19 under section twenty, article fifteen, chapter thirty-three of this code or section fifteen, article sixteen
20 of said chapter that are used for a purpose other than payment of medical expenses, as defined in
21 those sections.

22 (c) *Modifications reducing federal adjusted gross income.* -- There shall be subtracted from

1 federal adjusted gross income to the extent included therein:

2 (1) Interest income on obligations of the United States and its possessions to the extent
3 includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes;

4 (2) Interest or dividend income on obligations or securities of any authority, commission or
5 instrumentality of the United States or of the State of West Virginia to the extent includable in gross
6 income for federal income tax purposes but exempt from state income taxes under the laws of the
7 United States or of the State of West Virginia, including federal interest or dividends paid to
8 shareholders of a regulated investment company, under Section 852 of the Internal Revenue Code
9 for taxable years ending after June 30, 1987;

10 (3) Any amount included in federal adjusted gross income for federal income tax purposes
11 for the taxable year that is not included in federal adjusted gross income under this article for the
12 taxable year;

13 (4) The amount of any refund or credit for overpayment of income taxes imposed by this
14 state, or any other taxing jurisdiction, to the extent properly included in gross income for federal
15 income tax purposes;

16 (5) Annuities, retirement allowances, returns of contributions and any other benefit received
17 under the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System, the West Virginia State Teachers
18 Retirement System and all forms of military retirement, including regular Armed Forces, Reserves
19 and National Guard, including any survivorship annuities derived therefrom, to the extent includable
20 in gross income for federal income tax purposes: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any provisions in
21 this code to the contrary this modification shall be limited to the first ~~\$2,000~~ \$20,000 of benefits
22 received under the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System, the West Virginia State

1 Teachers Retirement System and, including any survivorship annuities derived therefrom, to the
2 extent includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes for taxable years beginning after
3 December 31, 1986; and the first \$2,000 of benefits received under any federal retirement system
4 to which Title 4 U.S.C. §111 applies: *Provided, however,* That the total modification under this
5 paragraph shall not exceed \$2,000 per person receiving retirement benefits and this limitation shall
6 apply to all returns or amended returns filed after December 31, 1988: *Provided further, That this*
7 *modification may not exceed \$20,000 of benefits per person receiving retirement benefits under the*
8 *West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System and the West Virginia State Teachers*
9 *Retirement System and this limitation applies to all returns or amended returns filed after December*
10 *31, 2014;*

11 (6) Retirement income received in the form of pensions and annuities after December 31,
12 1979, under any West Virginia police, West Virginia Firemen;'s Retirement System or the West
13 Virginia State Police Death, Disability and Retirement Fund, the West Virginia State Police
14 Retirement System or the West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, including any
15 survivorship annuities derived from any of these programs, to the extent includable in gross income
16 for federal income tax purposes;

17 (7) (A) For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2000, and ending prior to January 1,
18 2003, an amount equal to two percent multiplied by the number of years of active duty in the Armed
19 Forces of the United States of America with the product thereof multiplied by the first \$30,000 of
20 military retirement income, including retirement income from the regular Armed Forces, Reserves
21 and National Guard paid by the United States or by this state after December 31, 2000, including any
22 survivorship annuities, to the extent included in gross income for federal income tax purposes for

1 the taxable year.

2 (B) For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2002, the first \$20,000 of military
3 retirement income, including retirement income from the regular Armed Forces, Reserves and
4 National Guard paid by the United States or by this state after December 31, 2002, including any
5 survivorship annuities, to the extent included in gross income for federal income tax purposes for
6 the taxable year.

7 (C) In the event that any of the provisions of this subdivision are found by a court of
8 competent jurisdiction to violate either the Constitution of this state or of the United States, or is held
9 to be extended to persons other than specified in this subdivision, this subdivision shall become null
10 and void by operation of law.

11 (8) Federal adjusted gross income in the amount of \$8,000 received from any source after
12 December 31, 1986, by any person who has attained the age of sixty-five on or before the last day
13 of the taxable year, or by any person certified by proper authority as permanently and totally
14 disabled, regardless of age, on or before the last day of the taxable year, to the extent includable in
15 federal adjusted gross income for federal tax purposes: *Provided*, That if a person has a medical
16 certification from a prior year and he or she is still permanently and totally disabled, a copy of the
17 original certificate is acceptable as proof of disability. A copy of the form filed for the federal
18 disability income tax exclusion is acceptable: *Provided, however*, That:

19 (i) Where the total modification under subdivisions (1), (2), (5), (6) and (7) of this subsection
20 is \$8,000 per person or more, no deduction shall be allowed under this subdivision; and

21 (ii) Where the total modification under subdivisions (1), (2), (5), (6) and (7) of this subsection
22 is less than \$8,000 per person, the total modification allowed under this subdivision for all gross

1 income received by that person shall be limited to the difference between \$8,000 and the sum of
2 modifications under subdivisions (1), (2), (5), (6) and (7) of this subsection;

3 (9) Federal adjusted gross income in the amount of \$8,000 received from any source after
4 December 31, 1986, by the surviving spouse of any person who had attained the age of sixty-five or
5 who had been certified as permanently and totally disabled, to the extent includable in federal
6 adjusted gross income for federal tax purposes: *Provided*, That:

7 (i) Where the total modification under subdivisions (1), (2), (5), (6), (7) and (8) of this
8 subsection is \$8,000 or more, no deduction shall be allowed under this subdivision; and

9 (ii) Where the total modification under subdivisions (1), (2), (5), (6), (7) and (8) of this
10 subsection is less than \$8,000 per person, the total modification allowed under this subdivision for
11 all gross income received by that person shall be limited to the difference between \$8,000 and the
12 sum of subdivisions (1), (2), (5), (6), (7) and (8) of this subsection;

13 (10) Contributions from any source to a medical savings account established by or for the
14 individual pursuant to section twenty, article fifteen, chapter thirty-three of this code or section
15 fifteen, article sixteen of said chapter, plus interest earned on the account, to the extent includable
16 in federal adjusted gross income for federal tax purposes: *Provided*, That the amount subtracted
17 pursuant to this subdivision for any one taxable year may not exceed \$2,000 plus interest earned on
18 the account. For married individuals filing a joint return, the maximum deduction is computed
19 separately for each individual;

20 (11) For the 2006 taxable year only, severance wages received by a taxpayer from an
21 employer as the result of the taxpayer's permanent termination from employment through a reduction
22 in force and through no fault of the employee, not to exceed \$30,000. For purposes of this

1 subdivision:

2 (i) The term "severance wages" means any monetary compensation paid by the employer in
3 the taxable year as a result of permanent termination from employment in excess of regular annual
4 wages or regular annual salary;

5 (ii) The term "reduction in force" means a net reduction in the number of employees
6 employed by the employer in West Virginia, determined based on total West Virginia employment
7 of the employer's controlled group;

8 (iii) The term "controlled group" means one or more chains of corporations connected
9 through stock ownership with a common parent corporation if stock possessing at least fifty percent
10 of the voting power of all classes of stock of each of the corporations is owned directly or indirectly
11 by one or more of the corporations and the common parent owns directly stock possessing at least
12 fifty percent of the voting power of all classes of stock of at least one of the other corporations;

13 (iv) The term "corporation" means any corporation, joint-stock company or association and
14 any business conducted by a trustee or trustees wherein interest or ownership is evidenced by a
15 certificate of interest or ownership or similar written instrument; and

16 (12) Any other income which this state is prohibited from taxing under the laws of the United
17 States.

18 (d) *Modification for West Virginia fiduciary adjustment.* -- There shall be added to or
19 subtracted from federal adjusted gross income, as the case may be, the taxpayer's share, as
20 beneficiary of an estate or trust, of the West Virginia fiduciary adjustment determined under section
21 nineteen of this article.

22 (e) *Partners and S corporation shareholders.* -- The amounts of modifications required to

1 be made under this section by a partner or an S corporation shareholder, which relate to items of
2 income, gain, loss or deduction of a partnership or an S corporation, shall be determined under
3 section seventeen of this article.

4 (f) *Husband and wife.* -- If husband and wife determine their federal income tax on a joint
5 return but determine their West Virginia income taxes separately, they shall determine their West
6 Virginia adjusted gross incomes separately as if their federal adjusted gross incomes had been
7 determined separately.

8 (g) *Effective date.* --

9 (1) Changes in the language of this section enacted in the year 2000 shall apply to taxable
10 years beginning after December 31, 2000.

11 (2) Changes in the language of this section enacted in the year 2002 shall apply to taxable
12 years beginning after December 31, 2002.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to exempt the first \$20,000 of income received by retired public employees and retired teachers through their state retirement systems from personal income taxes.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.