



MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption Taxpayer Fact Sheet

[MCL 211.7u](#) provides for a property tax exemption, in whole or part, for the principal residence of persons who, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges. For purposes of the poverty exemption, the term "principal residence" means how principal residence exemption and qualified agricultural property are defined in MCL 211.7dd. The exemption does not apply to property of a corporation. This Taxpayer Fact Sheet includes updates made to MCL 211.7u by Public Act 253 of 2020.

How To Apply For The Poverty Exemption

To request a poverty exemption, a taxpayer must file:

1. Form 5737 *Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption*
2. Form 5739 *Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty*
3. All required additional documentation (such as federal/state income tax returns)

Forms 5737 and 5739, along with any additional documentation, must be filed with the local assessing unit where the property is located. **Do not file these forms with the Department of Treasury or the State Tax Commission.** The forms may be submitted to the local assessing unit on or after January 1 but before the day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review during the year in which the exemption is requested.

Taxpayers should contact the local assessing unit directly to verify deadline dates for submission of the forms to ensure the application gets reviewed by a Board of Review during that calendar year.

In addition to filing Forms 5737 and 5739 and any supporting documentation, a taxpayer must do all the following to be eligible for the poverty exemption:

1. Own and occupy the property as a principal residence.
2. Provide federal and state income tax returns for the current or immediately preceding year, including any property tax credits, for all persons **residing in the principal residence** (disclosure of the income of an owner who is not residing in the principal residence is not required). Federal and state income tax returns are not required for a person residing in the principal residence if that person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return. Instead, Form 4988, *Poverty Exemption Affidavit* may be filed for all persons residing in

the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns in the current or immediately preceding year.

3. Produce a valid driver license or other form of identification, if requested.
4. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property, if requested.
5. Meet the federal poverty guidelines published in the prior calendar year in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the local assessing unit. The alternative guidelines cannot provide income eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
6. Meet the asset level test adopted by the local assessing unit.

Appeal Rights

An appeal of a decision of the March Board of Review is made by completing and submitting a petition to the Michigan Tax Tribunal no later than July 31 of the same year. A decision of the July or December Board of Review may be appealed by completing and submitting a petition to the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 35 days of the July or December Board of Review's decision. More information on how to file an appeal is available by contacting the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Information can also be viewed on the Michigan Tax Tribunal's website at <https://www.michigan.gov/taxtribunal>.

Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption

This form is issued under the authority of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, MCL 211.7u.

MCL 211.7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, provides a property tax exemption for the principal residence of persons who, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute toward the public charges. This application is to be used to apply for the exemption and must be filed with the Board of Review where the property is located. This application may be submitted to the city or township the property is located in each year on or after January 1.

To be considered complete, this application must: 1) be completed in its entirety, 2) include information regarding all members residing within the household, and 3) include all required documentation as listed within the application. Please write legibly and attach additional pages as necessary.

PART 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION — Petitioner must list all required personal information.				
Petitioner's Name			Daytime Phone Number	
Age of Petitioner	Marital Status	Age of Spouse	Number of Legal Dependents	
Property Address of Principal Residence		City	State	ZIP Code
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if applied for Homestead Property Tax Credit		Amount of Homestead Property Tax Credit		
PART 2: REAL ESTATE INFORMATION				
List the real estate information related to your principal residence. Be prepared to provide a deed, land contract or other evidence of ownership of the property at the Board of Review meeting.				
Property Parcel Code Number		Name of Mortgage Company		
Unpaid Balance Owed on Principal Residence	Monthly Payment	Length of Time at this Residence		
Property Description				
PART 3: ADDITIONAL PROPERTY INFORMATION				
List information related to any other property owned by you or any member residing in the household.				
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you own, or are buying, other property. If checked, complete the information below.			Amount of Income Earned from other Property	
1	Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
	Name of Owner(s)	Assessed Value	Date of Last Taxes Paid	Amount of Taxes Paid
2	Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
	Name of Owner(s)	Assessed Value	Date of Last Taxes Paid	Amount of Taxes Paid

PART 4: EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION — List your current employment information.					
Name of Employer					
Address of Employer		City	State	ZIP Code	
Contact Person		Employer Telephone Number			
PART 5: INCOME SOURCES					
List all income sources, including but not limited to: salaries, Social Security, rents, pensions, IRAs (individual retirement accounts), unemployment compensation, disability, government pensions, worker's compensation, dividends, claims and judgments from lawsuits, alimony, child support, friend or family contribution, reverse mortgage, or any other source of income, for all persons residing at the property.					
Source of Income			Monthly or Annual Income (indicate which)		
PART 6: CHECKING, SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT INFORMATION					
List any and all savings owned by all household members, including but not limited to: checking accounts, savings accounts, postal savings, credit union shares, certificates of deposit, cash, stocks, bonds, or similar investments, for all persons residing at the property.					
Name of Financial Institution or Investments	Amount on Deposit	Current Interest Rate	Name on Account	Value of Investment	
PART 7: LIFE INSURANCE — List all policies held by all household members.					
Name of Insured	Amount of Policy	Monthly Payments	Policy Paid in Full	Name of Beneficiary	Relationship to Insured
PART 8: MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION					
All motor vehicles (including motorcycles, motor homes, camper trailers, etc.) held or owned by any person residing within the household must be listed.					
Make	Year	Monthly Payment	Balance Owed		

PART 9: HOUSEHOLD OCCUPANTS — List all persons living in the household.					
First and Last Name	Age	Relationship to Applicant	Place of Employment	\$ Contribution to Family Income	
PART 10: PERSONAL DEBT — List all personal debt for all household members.					
Creditor	Purpose of Debt	Date of Debt	Original Balance	Monthly Payment	Balance Owed
PART 11: MONTHLY EXPENSE INFORMATION					
The amount of monthly expenses related to the principal residence for each category must be listed. Indicate N/A as necessary.					
Heating	Electric	Water	Phone		
Cable	Food	Clothing	Health Insurance		
Garbage	Daycare		Car Expense (gas, repair, etc.)		
Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)		Other (type and amount)		
Other (type and amount)	Other (type and amount)		Other (type and amount)		

NOTICE: Per MCL 211.7u(2)(b), federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year must be submitted with this application. Federal and state income tax returns are not required for a person residing in the principal residence if that person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return in the tax year in which the exemption under this section is claimed or in the immediately preceding tax year.

PART 11: POLICY AND GUIDELINES ACKNOWLEDGMENT		
<p>The governing body of the local assessing unit shall determine and make available to the public the policy and guidelines used for the granting of exemptions under MCL 211.7u. In order to be eligible for the exemption, the applicant must meet the federal poverty guidelines published in the prior calendar year in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under its authority to revise the poverty line under 42 USC 9902, or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body of the local assessing unit so long as the alternative guidelines do not provide income eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines. The policy and guidelines must include, but are not limited to, the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets. The combined assets of all persons must not exceed the limits set forth in the guidelines adopted by the local assessing unit.</p>		
<p><input type="checkbox"/> The applicant has reviewed the applicable policy and guidelines adopted by the city or township, including the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets.</p>		
PART 12: CERTIFICATION		
<p>I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided in this form is complete, accurate and I am eligible for the exemption from property taxes pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7u.</p>		
Printed Name	Signature	Date

This application shall be filed after January 1, but before the day prior to the last day of the local unit's December Board of Review.

Decision of the March Board of Review may be appealed by petition to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by July 31 of the current year. A July or December Board of Review decision may be appealed to the Michigan Tax Tribunal by petition within 35 days of decision. A copy of the Board of Review decision must be included with the petition.

Michigan Tax Tribunal
 PO Box 30232
 Lansing MI 48909

Phone: 517-335-9760
 E-mail: taxtrib@michigan.gov

Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty

This form is issued under the authority of Public Act 253 of 2020.

This form is to be used to affirm ownership, occupancy, and income status. MCL 211.7u(2) provides that, to be eligible for exemption under this section, a person shall, subject to subsection (6) and (8), annually affirm that the applicant owns and occupies, as a principal residence, the property for which an exemption is requested.

PART 1: OWNER INFORMATION — Enter information for the person owning and occupying the residence.			
Owner Name		Owner Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 2: LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION (Complete if applicable.)			
Legal Designee Name		Daytime Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 3: HOMESTEAD PROPERTY INFORMATION — Enter information for property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
City or Township (check the appropriate box and enter name) <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township <input type="checkbox"/> Village		County	
Name of Local School District			
Parcel Identification Number		Year(s) Exemption Previously Granted by Board of Review	
Homestead Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 4: AFFIRMATION OF OWNERSHIP, OCCUPANCY, AND INCOME STATUS (Check all boxes that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I own the property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
<input type="checkbox"/> The property in which the exemption is being claimed is used as my homestead. Homestead is generally defined as any dwelling with its land and buildings where a family makes its home.			
<input type="checkbox"/> After establishing initial eligibility for the exemption, my income and asset status has remained unchanged and/or I receive a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases beyond the rate of inflation, such as federal Supplemental Security Income or Social Security disability or retirement benefits.			
PART 5: CERTIFICATION			
I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided on this form is true and I am eligible to receive an exemption from property taxes by reason of poverty pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7u.			
Owner or Legal Designee Name (print)		Signature of Owner or Legal Designee	Date
Designee must attach a letter of authority.			
LOCAL GOVERNMENT USE ONLY (DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied (Attach appeal instructions and provide to owner.)		Tax Year(s) exemption will be posted to tax roll	
CERTIFICATION — I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this form is complete and accurate.			
Assessor Signature		Date Certified by Assessor	

Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty

This form is issued under the authority of Public Act 253 of 2020.

This form is to be used to affirm ownership, occupancy, and income status. MCL 211.7u(2) provides that, to be eligible for exemption under this section, a person shall, subject to subsection (6) and (8), annually affirm that the applicant owns and occupies, as a principal residence, the property for which an exemption is requested.

PART 1: OWNER INFORMATION — Enter information for the person owning and occupying the residence.			
Owner Name		Owner Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 2: LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION (Complete if applicable.)			
Legal Designee Name		Daytime Telephone Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 3: HOMESTEAD PROPERTY INFORMATION — Enter information for property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
City or Township (check the appropriate box and enter name) <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township <input type="checkbox"/> Village		County	
Name of Local School District			
Parcel Identification Number		Year(s) Exemption Previously Granted by Board of Review	
Homestead Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
PART 4: AFFIRMATION OF OWNERSHIP, OCCUPANCY, AND INCOME STATUS (Check all boxes that apply.)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I own the property in which the exemption is being claimed.			
<input type="checkbox"/> The property in which the exemption is being claimed is used as my homestead. Homestead is generally defined as any dwelling with its land and buildings where a family makes its home.			
<input type="checkbox"/> After establishing initial eligibility for the exemption, my income and asset status has remained unchanged and/or I receive a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases beyond the rate of inflation, such as federal Supplemental Security Income or Social Security disability or retirement benefits.			
PART 5: CERTIFICATION			
I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided on this form is true and I am eligible to receive an exemption from property taxes by reason of poverty pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7u.			
Owner or Legal Designee Name (print)		Signature of Owner or Legal Designee	Date
Designee must attach a letter of authority.			
LOCAL GOVERNMENT USE ONLY (DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied (Attach appeal instructions and provide to owner.)		Tax Year(s) exemption will be posted to tax roll	
CERTIFICATION — I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this form is complete and accurate.			
Assessor Signature		Date Certified by Assessor	

Poverty Exemption Affidavit

This form is issued under authority of Public Act 206 of 1893; MCL 211.7u.

INSTRUCTIONS: When completed, this document must accompany a taxpayer's Application for Poverty Exemption filed with the supervisor or the board of review of the local unit where the property is located. MCL 211.7u provides for a whole or partial property tax exemption on the principal residence of an owner of the property by reason of poverty and the inability to contribute toward the public charges. MCL 211.7u(2)(b) requires proof of eligibility for the exemption be provided to the board of review by supplying copies of federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including property tax credit returns, or by filing an affidavit for all persons residing in the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns for the current or preceding tax year.

I, _____, swear and affirm by my signature below that I reside in the principal residence that is the subject of this Application for Poverty Exemption and that for the current tax year and the preceding tax year, I was not required to file a federal or state income tax return.

Address of Principal Residence: _____

Signature of Person Making Affidavit

Date

**Kalamazoo Charter Township
Kalamazoo County, Michigan**

**Resolution Adopting Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines
For Property Taxes**

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act, Act 390 of 1994, as amended, requires the Township Board to adopt guidelines for poverty exemptions; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Supervisor/Assessor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, as amended, the Township Board of Kalamazoo Charter Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to: the specific income level of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Board of Kalamazoo Charter Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, hereby adopts by reference the United States Department of Health and Human Services poverty exemption guidelines, as they are provided for 2023 as follows:

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$13,590
2	\$18,310
3	\$23,030
4	\$27,750
5	\$32,470
6	\$37,190
7	\$41,910
8	\$46,630
For each additional person	\$4,720

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to be eligible for consideration of a whole or partial property tax exemption, a person shall be required to establish that those living in the principal residence meet the poverty exemption guidelines, and the asset test as adopted by the Township Board on January 9, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to be eligible for consideration of a whole or partial property tax exemption, a person shall do the following on an annual basis, which shall establish for the Township Board of Review the income and asset level and shall constitute an application for consideration of a full or partial poverty tax exemption:

1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested. Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested; and

2) File Michigan Treasury Form 5736 "Application for MCL 211.7u Poverty Exemption"; and Michigan Treasury Form 5739 "Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty" with the supervisor/assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year; and

3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons residing in the residence for which poverty exemption is sought do not exceed the current United States Department of Health and Human Services Poverty income guidelines; and

4) Establish the amount of assets for the owner/occupants of such principal residence which may include, but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, and bonds. Such assets will be compared to the asset level guidelines adopted by the Kalamazoo Charter Township Board on January 9, 2023; and

5) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested; and

6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence; and

7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but at least one day prior to the last day of the Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the supervisor/assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with PA 253 of 2020, the Board of Review is not permitted to deviate from these guidelines, nor the total asset value contained on the asset level test for 2022 approved by the Township Board on January 9, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following documents shall be posted on the Township's website at www.ktwp.org as soon as practicable after the date of adoption as certified hereon:

---Poverty income guidelines and procedure (this document); and

- Michigan Treasury Form 5737-Application
- Michigan Treasury Form 5739-Affirmation of Ownership
- Michigan Treasury Form 4988-Affidavit/No Income Tax Filed
- Asset level test adopted by the Township Board on January 9, 2023.

Motion was made by Treasurer Miller and seconded by Trustee Robinson to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Upon roll call vote the following voted "Aye": Supervisor Donald D. Martin, Treasurer Sherine M. Miller, Clerk Mark E. Miller, Trustee Clara Robinson, Trustee Ashley Glass, Trustee Lisa Moaiery, Trustee Steven C. Leuty

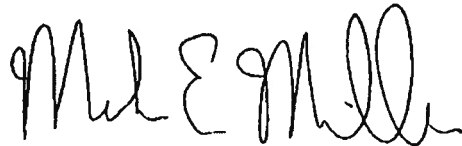
The following voted "Nay": None

The following were absent: None

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Kalamazoo Charter Township Board held on January 9, 2023; the original of which resolution is on file in my office; that the meeting was conducted and public notice of the meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act; that a quorum of the Board was present and voted in favor of the resolution; and that the minutes of the meeting will be or have been made available as required by the Open Meetings Act.



Mark E. Miller, Clerk
Charter Township of Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo County, Michigan

Attest:



Donald D. Martin, Supervisor

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF KALAMAZOO
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION SETTING ASSET LEVEL TEST FOR BOARD OF REVIEW

WHEREAS, MCL 211.7u of the General Property Tax Act of the State of Michigan allows a property tax exemption for the principal residence of persons who, in the judgment of the Supervisor and Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges; and

WHEREAS, the Kalamazoo Township Board has adopted poverty income guidelines with respect to the General Property Tax Act; and

WHEREAS, the Kalamazoo Township Board is also required to adopt an "asset level test" for use by the Supervisor and Board of Review in determining whether to grant a full or partial exemption for a property owned by person(s) who meet the poverty income guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Kalamazoo Township Board has determined what level of particular assets should be considered by the Board of Review in making such determination.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the "asset level test" for consideration by the Supervisor and Board of Review in making a determination as to whether a property that meets the poverty income guidelines is eligible for a full or partial exemption of property taxes in accordance with MCL 211.7u is as follows:

1. A person seeking an exemption shall file a separate affidavit (Michigan Treasury Form 4988) signed by each member of the household over the age of 18 (including the owner) residing in the residence for which exemption is sought in order to establish to the Board of Review that no person over the age of 18 residing on said property was required to file federal or state income tax returns in the years 2021 and 2020.
2. No more than one motor vehicle for each licensed driver residing full time at the property in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 in value for each.
3. Checking and savings accounts in total amount not exceeding 25% of the current annual poverty guideline for a single person (\$3,590 in 2023), making \$3398 the value of bank accounts permitted in 2022.
4. Additional valuable assets including but not limited to stocks, bonds, jewelry, boats, equipment, recreational vehicles, additional real estate, and the like may be considered by the Board of Review in determining whether to grant a full or partial exemption for properties whose owners meet the poverty income guidelines.

5. The maximum cumulative amount of assets owned other than the home is limited to \$18,000. All other owned assets above this total amount shall be deemed to be available for payment of property taxes, whether liquid or not.

6. The Township Board of Review may require an applicant for poverty exemption to establish documentary proof that these asset levels are not exceeded.

7. If a taxpayer qualifies for a poverty exemption, the Board of Review is permitted to grant only a 100%, 50% or 25% reduction in taxable value. No other percentage value reductions shall be permitted.

8. The Board of Review is not permitted to deviate from these guidelines.

Motion was made by Clerk Miller and seconded by Treasurer Miller to adopt the foregoing Resolution.

Upon roll call vote the following voted "Aye": Supervisor Donald D. Martin, Treasurer Sherine M. Miller, Clerk Mark E. Miller, Trustee Clara Robinson, Trustee Ashley, Trustee Lisa Moaiery, Trustee Steven C. Leuty

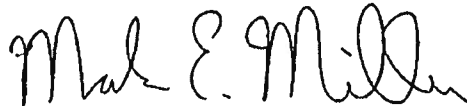
The following voted "Nay": None

The following were absent: None

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution duly adopted.

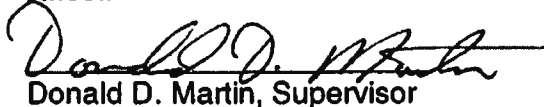
CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Kalamazoo Township Board held on January 9, 2023; the original of which resolution is on file in my office; that the meeting was conducted and public notice of the meeting was given pursuant to an in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act; that a quorum of the Board was present and voted in favor of the resolution; and that the minutes of the meeting will be or have been made available as required by the Open Meetings Act.



Mark E. Miller, Clerk
Charter Township of Kalamazoo

Attest:



Donald D. Martin, Supervisor

THE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 206 of 1893

211.7u Principal residence of persons in poverty; exemption from taxation; applicability of section to property of corporation; eligibility for exemption; application; policy and guidelines to be used by local assessing unit; duties of board of review; exemption by resolution and without application for certain tax years; appeal of property assessment; audit program; "principal residence" defined.

Sec. 7u. (1) The principal residence of a person who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, is unable to contribute toward the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from the collection of taxes under this act. This section does not apply to the property of a corporation.

(2) To be eligible for exemption under this section, a person shall, subject to subsections (6) and (8), do all of the following on an annual basis:

(a) Own and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested. The person shall affirm this ownership and occupancy status in writing by filing a form prescribed by the state tax commission with the local assessing unit.

(b) File a claim with the board of review on a form prescribed by the state tax commission and provided by the local assessing unit, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year. Federal and state income tax returns are not required for a person residing in the principal residence if that person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return in the tax year in which the exemption under this section is claimed or in the immediately preceding tax year. If a person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return in the tax year in which the exemption under this section is claimed or in the immediately preceding tax year, an affidavit in a form prescribed by the state tax commission may be accepted in place of the federal or state income tax return. The filing of a claim under this subsection constitutes an appearance before the board of review for the purpose of preserving the claimant's right to appeal the decision of the board of review regarding the claim.

(c) Produce a valid driver license or other form of identification if requested by the supervisor or board of review.

(d) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if required by the supervisor or board of review.

(e) Meet the federal poverty guidelines published in the prior calendar year in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under its authority to revise the poverty line under 42 USC 9902, or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body of the local assessing unit provided the alternative guidelines do not provide income eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.

(3) The application for an exemption under this section must be filed after January 1 but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review.

(4) The governing body of the local assessing unit shall determine and make available to the public the policy and guidelines used for the granting of exemptions under this section. If the local assessing unit maintains a website, the local assessing unit shall make the policy and guidelines, and the form described in subsection (2)(b), available to the public on the website. The guidelines must include, but are not limited to, the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and total household income and assets.

(5) The board of review shall follow the policy and guidelines of the local assessing unit in granting or denying an exemption under this section. If a person claiming an exemption under this section is qualified under the eligibility requirements in subsection (2), the board of review shall grant the exemption in whole or in part, as follows:

(a) A full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value for the tax year in which the exemption is granted.

(b) A partial exemption equal to 1 of the following:

(i) A 50% or 25% reduction in taxable value for the tax year in which the exemption is granted.

(ii) As approved by the state tax commission, any other percentage reduction in taxable value for the tax year in which the exemption is granted, applied in a form and manner prescribed by the state tax commission.

(6) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, a local assessing unit may permit by resolution a principal residence exempt from the collection of taxes under this section in tax year 2019 or 2020, or both, to remain exempt under this section in tax years 2021, 2022, and 2023 without subsequent reapplication for the exemption, provided there has not been a change in ownership or occupancy status of the person eligible for exemption under subsection (2), and may permit a principal residence exempt for the first

time from the collection of taxes under this section in tax year 2021, 2022, or 2023 to remain exempt under this section for up to 3 additional years after its initial year of exempt status without subsequent reapplication for the exemption, provided there has not been a change in ownership or occupancy status of the person eligible for exemption under subsection (2), if the person who establishes initial eligibility under subsection (2) receives a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases beyond the rate of inflation, such as federal Supplemental Security Income or Social Security disability or retirement benefits. Both of the following apply to a person who obtains an extended exemption under this subsection:

(a) The person shall file with the local assessing unit, in a form and manner prescribed by the state tax commission, an affidavit rescinding the exemption as extended under this subsection within 45 days after either of the following, if applicable:

(i) The person ceases to own or occupy the principal residence for which the exemption was extended.

(ii) The person experiences a change in household assets or income that defeats eligibility for the exemption under subsection (2).

(b) If the person fails to file a rescission as required under subdivision (a) and the property is later determined to be ineligible for the exemption under this section, the person is subject to repayment of any additional taxes with interest as described in this subdivision. Upon discovery that the property is no longer eligible for the exemption under this section, the assessor shall remove the exemption of that property and, if the tax roll is in the local tax collecting unit's possession, amend the tax roll to reflect the removal of the exemption, and the local treasurer shall, within 30 days of the date of the discovery, issue a corrected tax bill for any additional taxes with interest at the rate of 1% per month or fraction of a month computed from the date the taxes were last payable without interest. If the tax roll is in the county treasurer's possession, the tax roll must be amended to reflect the removal of the exemption and the county treasurer shall, within 30 days of the date of the removal, prepare and submit a supplemental tax bill for any additional taxes, together with interest at the rate of 1% per month or fraction of a month computed from the date the taxes were last payable without interest. Interest on any tax set forth in a corrected or supplemental tax bill again begins to accrue 60 days after the date the corrected or supplemental tax bill is issued at the rate of 1% per month or fraction of a month. Taxes levied in a corrected or supplemental tax bill must be returned as delinquent on the March 1 in the year immediately succeeding the year in which the corrected or supplemental tax bill is issued.

(7) A person who files a claim under this section is not prohibited from also appealing the assessment on the property for which that claim is made before the board of review in the same year.

(8) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, if the assessor determines that a principal residence of a person by reason of poverty is still eligible for this exemption and the property was exempt from the collection of taxes under this section in tax year 2019 or 2020, or both, the property shall remain exempt from the collection of taxes under this section through tax year 2021 if, on or before February 15, 2021, the governing body of the local assessing unit in which the principal residence is located adopts a resolution that continues the exemption through tax year 2021 for all principal residences within the local assessing unit that were exempt from the collection of taxes under this section in tax year 2019 or 2020, or both. The local assessing unit may require the owner of a principal residence exempt from the collection of taxes under this subsection to affirm ownership, poverty, and occupancy status in writing by filing with the local assessing unit the form prescribed by the state tax commission under subsection (2)(a).

(9) A local assessing unit that adopts a resolution under subsection (6) or (8) must develop and implement an audit program that includes, but is not limited to, the audit of all information filed under subsection (2). If property is determined to be ineligible for exemption as a result of an audit, the person who filed for the exemption under subsection (2) is subject to repayment of additional taxes including interest to be paid as provided in subsection (6)(b). The state tax commission shall issue a bulletin providing further guidance to local assessing units on the development and implementation of an audit program under this subsection.

(10) As used in this section, "principal residence" means principal residence or qualified agricultural property as those terms are defined in section 7dd.

History: Add. 1980, Act 142, Imd. Eff. June 2, 1980;—Am. 1993, Act 313, Eff. Mar. 15, 1994;—Am. 1994, Act 390, Imd. Eff. Dec. 29, 1994;—Am. 2002, Act 620, Imd. Eff. Dec. 23, 2002;—Am. 2003, Act 140, Eff. Jan. 1, 2004;—Am. 2012, Act 135, Imd. Eff. May 16, 2012;—Am. 2020, Act 253, Imd. Eff. Dec. 22, 2020.

Popular name: Act 206