

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2003 and 2004 HB4930

Introduced 2/4/2004, by Mike Boland

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

- 35 ILCS 200/14-15
- 35 ILCS 200/14-20
- 35 ILCS 200/15-10
- 35 ILCS 200/15-173 new
- 35 ILCS 200/20-178
- 30 ILCS 805/8.28 new

Amends the Property Tax Code. Creates the disabled veterans assessment freeze homestead exemption for a person who has served in the armed forces of the United States, the reserves of the armed forces of the United States, or the Illinois National Guard and who is disabled. Provides that the amount of this exemption shall be the equalized assessed value of the residence in the taxable year for which application is made minus the base amount. Defines "base amount" as the base year equalized assessed value of the residence plus the first year's equalized assessed value of any added improvements that increased the assessed value of the residence after the base year. Defines "base year" as, in most instances, the taxable year prior to the taxable year for which the applicant first qualifies and applies for the exemption. Makes corresponding changes to cross-references in other provisions of the Property Tax Code. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement. Effective immediately.

LRB093 19182 SJM 44917 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT MAY APPLY

HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY
IMPACT NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES ACT MAY REQUIRE REIMBURSEMENT 1 AN ACT concerning taxes.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

- Section 10. The Property Tax Code is amended by changing Sections 14-15, 14-20, 15-10, and 20-178 and by adding Section
- 6 15-173 as follows:
- 7 (35 ILCS 200/14-15)
- 8 Sec. 14-15. Certificate of error; counties of 3,000,000 or 9 more.
- (a) In counties with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants, if, 10 after the assessment is certified pursuant to Section 16-150, 11 but subject to the limitations of subsection (c) of this 12 Section, the county assessor discovers an error or mistake in 13 14 the assessment, the assessor shall execute a certificate 15 setting forth the nature and cause of the error. The certificate when endorsed by the county assessor, or when 16 17 endorsed by the county assessor and board of appeals (until the 18 first Monday in December 1998 and the board of review beginning 19 the first Monday in December 1998 and thereafter) where the certificate is executed for any assessment which was the 20 21 subject of a complaint filed in the board of appeals (until the 22 first Monday in December 1998 and the board of review beginning the first Monday in December 1998 and thereafter) for the tax 23 year for which the certificate is issued, may, either be 24 25 certified according to the procedure authorized by this Section 26 or be presented and received in evidence in any court of competent jurisdiction. Certification is authorized, at the 27 28 discretion of the county assessor, for: (1) certificates of 29 error allowing homestead exemptions pursuant to Sections 15-170, 15-172, , 15-173, and 15-175; (2) certificates of error 30 on residential property of 6 units or less; (3) certificates of 31 error allowing exemption of the property pursuant to Section 32

14-25; and (4) other certificates of error reducing assessed value by less than \$100,000. Any certificate of error not certified shall be presented to the court. The county assessor shall develop reasonable procedures for the filing and processing of certificates of error. Prior to the certification or presentation to the court, the county assessor or his or her designee shall execute and include in the certificate of error a statement attesting that all procedural requirements pertaining to the issuance of the certificate of error have been met and that in fact an error exists. When so introduced in evidence such certificate shall become a part of the court records, and shall not be removed from the files except upon the order of the court.

Certificates of error that will be presented to the court shall be filed as an objection in the application for judgment and order of sale for the year in relation to which the certificate is made or as an amendment to the objection under subsection (b). Certificates of error that are to be certified according to the procedure authorized by this Section need not be presented to the court as an objection or an amendment under subsection (b). The State's Attorney of the county in which the property is situated shall mail a copy of any final judgment entered by the court regarding any certificate of error to the taxpayer of record for the year in question.

Any unpaid taxes after the entry of the final judgment by the court or certification on certificates issued under this Section may be included in a special tax sale, provided that an advertisement is published and a notice is mailed to the person in whose name the taxes were last assessed, in a form and manner substantially similar to the advertisement and notice required under Sections 21-110 and 21-135. The advertisement and sale shall be subject to all provisions of law regulating the annual advertisement and sale of delinquent property, to the extent that those provisions may be made applicable.

A certificate of error certified under this Section shall be given effect by the county treasurer, who shall mark the tax

1 books and, upon receipt of one of the following certificates

2 from the county assessor or the county assessor and the board

3 of review where the board of review is required to endorse the

certificate of error, shall issue refunds to the taxpayer

5 accordingly:

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6 "CERTIFICATION

I,, county assessor, hereby certify that the Certificates of Error set out on the attached list have been duly issued to correct an error or mistake in the assessment."

11 "CERTIFICATION

assessor, 12 I, county and we, 13, 14 members of the board of review, hereby certify that the 15 Certificates of Error set out on the attached list have been duly issued to correct an error or mistake in the 16 assessment and that any certificates of error required to 17 18 be endorsed by the board of review have been so endorsed."

The county treasurer has the power to mark the tax books to reflect the issuance of certificates of error certified according to the procedure authorized in this Section for certificates of error issued under Section 14-25 or certificates of error issued to and including 3 years after the date on which the annual judgment and order of sale for that tax year was first entered. The county treasurer has the power to issue refunds to the taxpayer as set forth above until all refunds authorized by this Section have been completed.

To the extent that the certificate of error obviates the liability for nonpayment of taxes, certification of a certificate of error according to the procedure authorized in this Section shall operate to vacate any judgment or forfeiture as to that year's taxes, and the warrant books and judgment books shall be marked to reflect that the judgment or

forfeiture has been vacated.

- (b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this Section shall be construed to prohibit the execution, endorsement, issuance, and adjudication of a certificate of error if (i) the annual judgment and order of sale for the tax year in question is reopened for further proceedings upon consent of the county collector and county assessor, represented by the State's Attorney, and (ii) a new final judgment is subsequently entered pursuant to the certificate. This subsection (b) shall be construed as declarative of existing law and not as a new enactment.
- (c) No certificate of error, other than a certificate to establish an exemption under Section 14-25, shall be executed for any tax year more than 3 years after the date on which the annual judgment and order of sale for that tax year was first entered, except that during calendar years 1999 and 2000 a certificate of error may be executed for any tax year, provided that the error or mistake in the assessment was discovered no more than 3 years after the date on which the annual judgment and order of sale for that tax year was first entered.
- (d) The time limitation of subsection (c) shall not apply to a certificate of error correcting an assessment to \$1, under Section 10-35, on a parcel that a subdivision or planned development has acquired by adverse possession, if during the tax year for which the certificate is executed the subdivision or planned development used the parcel as common area, as defined in Section 10-35, and if application for the certificate of error is made prior to December 1, 1997.
- (e) The changes made by this amendatory Act of the 91st General Assembly apply to certificates of error issued before, on, and after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 91st General Assembly.
- 33 (Source: P.A. 90-4, eff. 3-7-97; 90-288, eff. 8-1-97; 90-655, 34 eff. 7-30-98; 91-393, eff. 7-30-99; 91-686, eff. 1-26-00.)

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Sec. 14-20. Certificate of error; counties of less than 3,000,000. In any county with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, if, at any time before judgment or order of sale is entered in any proceeding to collect or to enjoin the collection of taxes based upon any assessment of any property, the chief county assessment officer discovers an error or mistake in the assessment (other than errors of judgment as to the valuation of the property), he or she shall issue to the person erroneously assessed a certificate setting forth the nature of the error and the cause or causes of the error. In any county with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, if an owner fails to file an application for the Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption provided in Section 15-172 or the disabled veterans homestead exemption provided in Section 15-173 during the previous assessment year and qualifies for the exemption, the Chief County Assessment Officer pursuant to this Section, or the Board of Review pursuant to Section 16-75, shall issue a certificate of error setting forth the correct taxable valuation of the property. The certificate, when properly endorsed by the majority of the board of review, showing their concurrence, and not otherwise, may be used in evidence in any court of competent jurisdiction, and when so introduced in evidence, shall become a part of the court record and shall not be removed from the files except on an order of the court.

(35 ILCS 200/15-10)

Sec. 15-10. Exempt property; procedures for certification. All property granted an exemption by the Department pursuant to the requirements of Section 15-5 and described in the Sections following Section 15-30 and preceding Section 16-5, to the extent therein limited, is exempt from taxation. In order to maintain that exempt status, the titleholder or the owner of the beneficial interest of any property that is exempt must file with the chief county assessment officer, on or before January 31 of each year (May 31 in the case of property

(Source: P.A. 90-552, eff. 12-12-97; 91-377, eff. 7-30-99.)

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exempted by Section 15-170), an affidavit stating whether there has been any change in the ownership or use of the property or the status of the owner-resident, or that a disabled veteran who qualifies under Section 15-165 owned and used the property as of January 1 of that year. The nature of any change shall be stated in the affidavit. Failure to file an affidavit shall, in the discretion of the assessment officer, constitute cause to terminate the exemption of that property, notwithstanding any other provision of this Code. Owners of 5 or more such exempt parcels within a county may file a single annual affidavit in lieu of an affidavit for each parcel. The assessment officer, upon request, shall furnish an affidavit form to the owners, in which the owner may state whether there has been any change in the ownership or use of the property or status of the owner or resident as of January 1 of that year. The owner of 5 or more exempt parcels shall list all the properties giving the same information for each parcel as required of owners who file individual affidavits.

However, titleholders or owners of the beneficial interest in any property exempted under any of the following provisions are not required to submit an annual filing under this Section:

- (1) Section 15-45 (burial grounds) in counties of less than 3,000,000 inhabitants and owned by a not-for-profit organization.
 - (2) Section 15-40.
- (3) Section 15-50 (United States property).

27 If there is a change in use or ownership, however, notice 28 must be filed pursuant to Section 15-20.

An application for homestead exemptions shall be filed as provided in Section 15-170 (senior citizens homestead exemption), Section 15-172 (senior citizens assessment freeze homestead exemption), Section 15-173 (disabled veterans assessment freeze homestead exemption), and Section 15-175 (general homestead exemption), respectively.

35 (Source: P.A. 92-333, eff. 8-10-01; 92-729, eff. 7-25-02.)

- 1 (35 ILCS 200/15-173 new)
- 2 Sec. 15-173. Disabled veterans assessment freeze homestead
- 3 exemption.
- (a) This Section may be cited as the disabled veterans 4
- 5 assessment freeze homestead exemption.
- (b) As used in this Section: 6
- "Applicant" means an individual who has filed an 7
- application under this Section. 8
- "Base amount" means the base year equalized assessed value 9
- of the residence plus the first year's equalized assessed value 10
- 11 of any added improvements that increased the assessed value of
- 12 the residence after the base year.
- "Base year" means the taxable year prior to the taxable 13
- year for which the applicant first qualifies and applies for 14
- the exemption provided that in the prior taxable year the 15
- 16 property was improved with a permanent structure that was
- occupied as a residence by the applicant who was liable for 17
- paying real property taxes on the property and who was either 18
- (i) an owner of record of the property or had legal or 19
- 20 equitable interest in the property as evidenced by a written
- instrument or (ii) had a legal or equitable interest as a 21
- lessee in the parcel of property that was single family 22
- 23 residence. If in any subsequent taxable year for which the
- applicant applies and qualifies for the exemption the equalized

assessed value of the residence is less than the equalized

assessed value in the existing base year (provided that such

results from a temporary irregularity in the property that

- 27 equalized assessed value is not based on an assessed value that
- reduces the assessed value for one or more taxable years), then
- 30 that subsequent taxable year shall become the base year until a
- 31 new base year is established under the terms of this paragraph.
- "Chief county assessment officer" means the county
- assessor or supervisor of assessments of the county in which 33
- the property is located. 34

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- "Disabled veteran" means a person who has served in the 35
- armed forces of the United States, the reserves of the armed 36

- 1 <u>forces of the United States</u>, or the Illinois National Guard and
- 2 (i) who was found 100% disabled under 38 U.S.C., Chapter 11
- 3 (Disabled Veterans Benefits) or (ii) who was found disabled
- 4 under 42 U.S.C., Chapter 7, Subchapter II (Federal Old-Age,
- 5 Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefits) or 42 U.S.C.,
- 6 Chapter 7, Subchapter XVI (Supplemental Security Income for
- 7 Aged, Blind, and Disabled).
- 8 "Equalized assessed value" means the assessed value as
- 9 equalized by the Illinois Department of Revenue.
- 10 "Household" means the applicant, the spouse of the
- 11 applicant, and all persons using the residence of the applicant
- 12 <u>as their principal place of residence.</u>
- 13 "Household income" means the combined income of the members
- of a household for the calendar year preceding the taxable
- 15 <u>year.</u>
- "Income" has the same meaning as provided in Section 3.07
- of the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief
- 18 <u>and Pharmaceutical Assistance Act, except that "income" does</u>
- 19 <u>not include veteran's benefits.</u>
- 20 "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" means the United States
- 21 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any successor law or laws
- 22 <u>relating to federal income taxes in effect for the year</u>
- 23 preceding the taxable year.
- "Life care facility that qualifies as a cooperative" means
- 25 <u>a facility as defined in Section 2 of the Life Care Facilities</u>
- 26 Act.
- 27 <u>"Residence" means the principal dwelling place and</u>
- 28 appurtenant structures used for residential purposes in this
- 29 <u>State occupied on January 1 of the taxable year by a household</u>
- and so much of the surrounding land, constituting the parcel
- 31 <u>upon which the dwelling place is situated</u>, as is used for
- 32 <u>residential purposes. If the chief county assessment officer</u>
- 33 <u>has established a specific legal description for a portion of</u>
- 34 property constituting the residence, then that portion of
- 35 property shall be deemed the residence for the purposes of this
- 36 <u>Section</u>.

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"Taxable year" means the calendar year during which ad valorem property taxes payable in the next succeeding year are levied.

(c) Beginning in taxable year 2004, a disabled veterans assessment freeze homestead exemption is granted for real property that is improved with a permanent structure that is occupied as a residence by an applicant who (i) is a disabled veteran during the taxable year, (ii) has a household income of \$40,000 or less, (iii) is liable for paying real property taxes on the property, and (iv) is an owner of record of the property or has a legal or equitable interest in the property as evidenced by a written instrument. This homestead exemption shall also apply to a leasehold interest in a parcel of property improved with a permanent structure that is a single family residence that is occupied as a residence by a person who (i) is a disabled veteran during the taxable year, (ii) has a household income of \$40,000 or less, (iii) has a legal or equitable ownership interest in the property as lessee, and (iv) is liable for the payment of real property taxes on that property.

The amount of this exemption shall be the equalized assessed value of the residence in the taxable year for which application is made minus the base amount.

When the applicant is a surviving spouse of an applicant for a prior year for the same residence for which an exemption under this Section has been granted, the base year and base amount for that residence are the same as for the applicant for the prior year.

Each year at the time the assessment books are certified to the county clerk, the board of review shall give to the county clerk a list of the assessed values of improvements on each parcel qualifying for this exemption that were added after the base year for this parcel and that increased the assessed value of the property.

In the case of land improved with an apartment building

owned and operated as a cooperative or a building that is a

life care facility that qualifies as a cooperative, the maximum reduction from the equalized assessed value of the property is limited to the sum of the reductions calculated for each unit occupied as a residence by a disabled veteran with a household income of \$40,000 or less who is liable, by contract with the owner or owners of record, for paying real property taxes on the property and who is an owner of record of a legal or equitable interest in the cooperative apartment building, other than a leasehold interest. In the instance of a cooperative where a homestead exemption has been granted under this Section, the cooperative association or its management firm shall credit the savings resulting from that exemption only to the apportioned tax liability of the owner who qualified for the exemption. Any person who willfully refuses to credit that savings to an owner who qualifies for the exemption is quilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

When a homestead exemption has been granted under this Section and an applicant then becomes a resident of a facility licensed under the Nursing Home Care Act, the exemption shall be granted in subsequent years so long as the residence (i) continues to be occupied by the qualified applicant's spouse or (ii) if remaining unoccupied, is still owned by the qualified applicant for the homestead exemption.

If an individual dies who would have qualified for an exemption under this Section, and the surviving spouse does not independently qualify for this exemption because the surviving spouse is not a disabled veteran, the exemption under this Section shall be granted to the surviving spouse for the taxable year preceding and the taxable year of the death, provided that, except for not being a disabled veteran, the surviving spouse meets all other qualifications for the granting of this exemption for those years.

When married persons maintain separate residences, the exemption provided for in this Section may be claimed by only one of such persons and for only one residence.

In counties having 3,000,000 or more inhabitants, to

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receive the exemption, a person may submit an application to the chief county assessment officer of the county in which the property is located during such period as may be specified by the chief county assessment officer. The chief county assessment officer in counties of 3,000,000 or more inhabitants shall annually give notice of the application period by mail or by publication. In counties having less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, to receive the exemption, a person shall submit an application by July 1 of each taxable year to the chief county assessment officer of the county in which the property is located. A county may, by ordinance, establish a date for submission of applications that is different than July 1. The applicant shall submit with the application an affidavit of the applicant's total household income, disabled veteran status, marital status (and if married the name and address of the applicant's spouse, if known), and principal dwelling place of members of the household on January 1 of the taxable year. The Department shall establish, by rule, a method for verifying the accuracy of affidavits filed by applicants under this Section. The applications shall be clearly marked as applications for the disabled veterans assessment freeze homestead exemption. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, in

counties having fewer than 3,000,000 inhabitants, if an applicant fails to file the application required by this Section in a timely manner and this failure to file is due to a mental or physical condition sufficiently severe so as to render the applicant incapable of filing the application in a timely manner, the chief county assessment officer may extend the filing deadline for a period of 30 days after the applicant regains the capability to file the application, but in no case may the filing deadline be extended beyond 3 months after the original filing deadline. In order to receive the extension provided in this paragraph, the applicant shall provide the chief county assessment officer with a signed statement from the applicant's physician stating the nature and extent of the condition, that, in the physician's opinion, the condition was

so severe that it rendered the applicant incapable of filing
the application in a timely manner, and the date on which the
applicant regained the capability to file the application.

Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, in counties having fewer than 3,000,000 inhabitants, if an applicant fails to file the application required by this Section in a timely manner and this failure to file is due to a mental or physical condition sufficiently severe so as to render the applicant incapable of filing the application in a timely manner, the chief county assessment officer may extend the filing deadline for a period of 3 months. In order to receive the extension provided in this paragraph, the applicant shall provide the chief county assessment officer with a signed statement from the applicant's physician stating the nature and extent of the condition, and that, in the physician's opinion, the condition was so severe that it rendered the applicant incapable of filing the application in a timely manner.

For purposes of this Section, a person who becomes a disabled veteran during the current taxable year shall be eligible to apply for the homestead exemption during that taxable year. Application shall be made during the application period in effect for the county of his or her residence.

The chief county assessment officer may determine the eligibility of a life care facility that qualifies as a cooperative to receive the benefits provided by this Section by use of an affidavit, application, visual inspection, questionnaire, or other reasonable method in order to ensure that the tax savings resulting from the exemption are credited by the management firm to the apportioned tax liability of each qualifying resident. The chief county assessment officer may request reasonable proof that the management firm has so credited that exemption.

Except as provided in this Section, all information received by the chief county assessment officer or the Department from applications filed under this Section, or from any investigation conducted under the provisions of this

1 Section, shall be confidential, except for official purposes or

2 pursuant to official procedures for collection of any State or

3 <u>local tax or enforcement of any civil or criminal penalty or</u>

sanction imposed by this Act or by any statute or ordinance

imposing a State or local tax. Any person who divulges any such

information in any manner, except in accordance with a proper

judicial order, is quilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

Nothing contained in this Section shall prevent the Director or chief county assessment officer from publishing or making available reasonable statistics concerning the operation of the exemption contained in this Section in which the contents of claims are grouped into aggregates in such a way that information contained in any individual claim shall not be disclosed.

(d) Each chief county assessment officer shall annually publish a notice of availability of the exemption provided under this Section. The notice shall be published at least 60 days but no more than 75 days prior to the date on which the application must be submitted to the chief county assessment officer of the county in which the property is located. The notice shall appear in a newspaper of general circulation in the county.

Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8 of the State Mandates Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the implementation of any mandate created by this Section.

(35 ILCS 200/20-178)

Sec. 20-178. Certificate of error; refund; interest. When the county collector makes any refunds due on certificates of error issued under Sections 14-15 through 14-25 that have been either certified or adjudicated, the county collector shall pay the taxpayer interest on the amount of the refund at the rate of 0.5% per month.

No interest shall be due under this Section for any time prior to 60 days after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 91st General Assembly. For certificates of error

- 1 issued prior to the effective date of this amendatory Act of
- 2 the 91st General Assembly, the county collector shall pay the
- 3 taxpayer interest from 60 days after the effective date of this
- 4 amendatory Act of the 91st General Assembly until the date the
- 5 refund is paid. For certificates of error issued on or after
- 6 the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 91st General
- 7 Assembly, interest shall be paid from 60 days after the
- 8 certificate of error is issued by the chief county assessment
- 9 officer to the date the refund is made. To cover the cost of
- 10 interest, the county collector shall proportionately reduce
- 11 the distribution of taxes collected for each taxing district in
- 12 which the property is situated.
- This Section shall not apply to any certificate of error
- granting a homestead exemption under Section 15-170, 15-172,
- 15 <u>15-173</u>, or 15-175.
- 16 (Source: P.A. 91-393, eff. 7-30-99.)
- 17 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding
- 18 Section 8.28 as follows:
- 19 (30 ILCS 805/8.28 new)
- Sec. 8.28. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8
- of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the
- 22 <u>implementation of any mandate created by the disabled veterans</u>
- 23 assessment freeze homestead exemption under Section 15-173 of
- the Property Tax Code.
- 25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
- 26 becoming law.