

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 491 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, HAMM, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, JAMES, DRISCOLL, PISCIOTTANO, HELM, CONKLIN, R. MACKENZIE, O'MARA, FREEMAN, WEBSTER, CIRESI, SAINATO, M. MACKENZIE, GILLEN, POLINCHOCK AND RYAN, FEBRUARY 9, 2021

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 16, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for the exclusion of
3 veterans' benefit payments from income for Commonwealth
4 programs.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
8 Statutes is amended by adding a chapter to read:

9 CHAPTER 99

10 VETERANS' BENEFIT PAYMENT EXCLUSION

11 Sec.

12 9901. Definitions.

13 9902. Exclusion.

14 § 9901. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "Commonwealth program." A program administered by the  
2 Commonwealth that requires, as a condition for eligibility, the  
3 inclusion of an individual's income.

4 "Veteran." An individual who served in the United States  
5 Armed Forces, including a reserve component or National Guard,  
6 and who was discharged OR RELEASED from that service under <--  
7 conditions other than dishonorable.

8 "Veterans' benefit payment." Compensation or payment  
9 received by a veteran that is directly related to or the result  
10 of the veteran's service-connected disability as determined by  
11 the United States Veterans Administration. DEPARTMENT OF <--  
12 VETERANS AFFAIRS OR BENEFITS PROVIDED TO A VETERAN BY A  
13 COMMONWEALTH AGENCY OR AUTHORIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS  
14 COMMONWEALTH.  
15 § 9902. Exclusion.

16 (a) General rule.--One hundred percent of a veterans'  
17 benefit payment may not be included as income for any  
18 Commonwealth program.

19 (b) Extension to spouses.--The exclusion under this section  
20 shall apply to an unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of a  
21 veteran for any compensation or payment the unmarried surviving  
22 spouse is entitled to receive.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.