

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1279

Approved by the Governor April 13, 2000

Introduced by Revenue Committee: Wickersham, 49, Chairperson; Bohlke, 33; Coordsen, 32; Dierks, 40; Hartnett, 45; Landis, 46; Raikes, 25; Redfield, 12

AN ACT relating to revenue and taxation; to amend section 13-502, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 77-3508, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1999; to change provisions relating to the Nebraska Budget Act and homestead exemptions; to provide operative dates; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 13-502, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

13-502. (1) The purpose of the Nebraska Budget Act is to require governing bodies of this state to which the act applies to follow prescribed budget practices and procedures and make available to the public pertinent information pertaining to the financial requirements and expectations of such governing bodies so that intelligent and informed support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations can be made by those affected.

(2) The act shall not apply to governing bodies which have a budget of less than five thousand dollars per year.

(3) The act shall not apply to proprietary functions of municipalities for which a separate budget has been approved by the city council or village board as provided in the Municipal Proprietary Function Act.

(4) The Nebraska Budget Act shall not apply to any governing body for any fiscal year in which the governing body will not have a property tax request or receive state aid as defined in section 13-518.

(5) The act shall not apply to any public power district or public power and irrigation district organized pursuant to Chapter 70, article 6, to any rural power district organized pursuant to Chapter 70, article 8, or to any agency created pursuant to sections 18-2426 to 18-2434.

Sec. 2. Section 77-3508, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1999, is amended to read:

77-3508. (1) All homesteads in this state shall be assessed for taxation the same as other property, except that there shall be exempt from taxation, on any homestead of (a) veterans as defined in section 80-401.01 who are totally disabled by a non-service-connected accident or illness, (b) individuals who have a permanent physical disability ~~or who~~ and have lost all mobility such as to preclude locomotion without the regular use of a mechanical aid or prostheses, and (c) individuals who have undergone amputation of both arms above the elbow or who have a permanent partial disability of both arms in excess of seventy-five percent, a percentage of the exempt amount as limited by section 77-3506.03. The exemption shall be based on the household income of a claimant pursuant to subsections (2) through (4) of this section. Application for such exemption shall include certification from a qualified medical physician for subdivisions (1)(a) through (c) of this section or certification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs affirming that the homeowner is totally disabled due to non-service-connected accident or illness for subdivision (1)(a) of this section. Such certification from a qualified medical physician shall be made on forms prescribed by the Department of Revenue.

(2) For 2000, for a married or closely related claimant as described in subsection (1) of this section, the percentage of the exempt amount for which the claimant shall be eligible shall be the percentage in Column B which corresponds with the claimant's household income in Column A in the table found in this subsection.

Column A	Column B
Household Income In Dollars	Percentage Of Relief
0 through 24,700	100
24,701 through 25,900	85
25,901 through 27,100	70
27,101 through 28,300	55
28,301 through 29,500	40
29,501 through 30,700	25
30,701 and over	0

(3) For 2000, for a single claimant as described in subsection (1) of this section, the percentage of the exempt amount for which the claimant shall be eligible shall be the percentage in Column B which corresponds with the claimant's household income in Column A in the table found in this subsection.

Column A Household Income In Dollars	Column B Percentage Of Relief
0 through 21,600	100
21,601 through 22,600	85
22,601 through 23,600	70
23,601 through 24,600	55
24,601 through 25,600	40
25,601 through 26,600	25
26,601 and over	0

(4) For exemption applications filed in calendar year 2001 and each year thereafter, the income eligibility amounts in subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall be adjusted for inflation by the method provided in section 151 of the Internal Revenue Code. The income eligibility amounts shall be adjusted for cumulative inflation since 2000. If any amount is not a multiple of one hundred dollars, the amount shall be rounded to the next lower multiple of one hundred dollars.

Sec. 3. Sections 1, 3, 5, and 6 of this act become operative on July 1, 2000. The other sections of this act become operative on January 1, 2000.

Sec. 4. Original section 77-3508, Revised Statutes Supplement, 1999, is repealed.

Sec. 5. Original section 13-502, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is repealed.

Sec. 6. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.