HOUSE BILL 831

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Daniel P. Silva

AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION; ALLOWING COUNTIES THAT HAVE IMPOSED THE LOW-INCOME PROPERTY TAX REBATE TO BILL OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES FOR COSTS OF THE REBATE; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 7-2-14.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1994, Chapter 111, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-2-14.3. TAX REBATE OF PART OF PROPERTY TAX DUE FROM LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER--LOCAL OPTION--REFUND.--

A. The tax rebate provided by this section may be claimed for the taxable year for which the return is filed by an individual who:

(1) has his principal place of residence in a county that has adopted an ordinance pursuant to Subsection G . 136507.1

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of this section;

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- (2) is not a dependent of another individual;
- (3) files a return; and
- (4) incurred a property tax liability on his principal place of residence in the taxable year.
- B. The tax rebate provided by this section shall be allowed for any individual eligible to claim the refund pursuant to Subsection A of this section and who:
- (1) was not an inmate of a public institution for more than six months during the taxable year;
- (2) was physically present in New Mexico for at least six months during the taxable year for which the rebate is claimed: and
- (3) is eligible for the rebate as a low-income property taxpayer in accordance with the provisions of Subsection D of this section.
- C. A husband and wife who file separate returns for the taxable year in which they could have filed a joint return may each claim only one-half of the tax rebate that would have been allowed on the joint return.
- D. As used in the table in this subsection,
 "property tax liability" means the amount of property tax
 resulting from the imposition of the county and municipal
 property tax operating impositions on the net taxable value of
 the taxpayer's principal place of residence calculated for the

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year for which the rebate is claimed. The tax rebate provided in this section is as specified in the following table:

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER'S PROPERTY TAX REBATE TABLE

Taxpayer's Modified Gross Income Property Tax Rebate

	But Not	
0ver	0ver	
\$0	\$8,000	75% of property tax liability
8, 000	10, 000	70% of property tax liability
10, 000	12, 000	65% of property tax liability
12, 000	14, 000	60% of property tax liability
14, 000	16, 000	55% of property tax liability
16, 000	18, 000	50% of property tax liability
18, 000	20, 000	45% of property tax liability
20, 000	22, 000	40% of property tax liability
22, 000	24, 000	35% of property tax liability.

E. If a taxpayer's modified gross income is zero, the taxpayer may claim a tax rebate in the amount shown in the first row of the table. The tax rebate provided for in this section shall not exceed three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) per return and, if a return is filed separately that could have been filed jointly, the tax rebate shall not exceed one hundred seventy-five dollars (\$175). No tax rebate shall be allowed any taxpayer whose modified gross income exceeds twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000).

F. The tax rebate provided for in this section may . 136507.1

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be deducted from the taxpayer's New Mexico income tax liability for the taxable year. If the tax rebate exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability, the excess shall be refunded to the taxpayer.

- In January of every odd-numbered year in which a county does not have in effect an ordinance adopted pursuant to this subsection, the board of county commissioners of the county shall conduct a public hearing on the question of whether the property tax rebate provided in this section benefiting low-income property taxpayers in the county should be made available through adoption of a county ordinance. Notice of the public hearing shall be published once at least two weeks prior to the hearing date in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county and broadcast at some time within the week before the hearing on at least one radio station with substantial broadcasting coverage in the county. At the public hearing, the board shall take action on the question and if a majority of the members elected votes to adopt an ordinance, it shall be adopted no later than thirty days after the public hearing.
- H. An ordinance adopted pursuant to Subsection G of this section shall specify the first taxable year to which it is applicable. The board of county commissioners adopting an ordinance shall notify the department of the adoption of the ordinance and furnish a copy of the ordinance to the

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department no later than September 1 of the first taxable year to which the ordinance applies.

- No later than July 1 of the year immediately following the first year in which the low-income taxpayer property tax rebate provided in the Income Tax Act is in effect for a county, and no later than July 1 of each year thereafter in which the tax rebate is in effect, the department shall certify to the county the amount of the loss of income tax revenue to the state for the previous taxable year attributable to the allowance of property tax rebates to The county shall promptly pay the taxpayers of that county. amount certified to the department. If a county fails to pay the amount certified within thirty days of the date of certification, the department may enforce collection of the amount by action against the county and may withhold from any revenue distribution to the county, not dedicated or pledged, amounts up to the amount certified.
- J. After payment to the department in accordance with the provisions of Subsection I of this section, the county treasurer shall bill each governmental entity for which property taxes were collected during the rebate period for their prorated share of the payment certified by the department. If payment is not received by the county within thirty days of billing, the county treasurer shall withhold the amount billed from the next property tax distribution.

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[J.] <u>K.</u> As used in this section, "principal place of residence" means the dwelling owned and occupied by the taxpayer and so much of the land surrounding it, not to exceed five acres, as is reasonably necessary for use of the dwelling as a home and may consist of a part of a multidwelling or a multipurpose building and a part of the land upon which it is built."

Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. -- The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2001.

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