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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1473 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, V. BROWN, COHEN, DAVIS, THOMAS, MILLARD,  
SAINATO, MURT, DAVIDSON, HELM, D. COSTA, O'BRIEN, GOODMAN,  
YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE, McNEILL, BIZZARRO, A. HARRIS,  
WATSON, DEASY, GILLEN AND SCHWEYER, JULY 22, 2015

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, JULY 22, 2015

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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 98

10 VETERANS' BENEFIT PAYMENT EXCLUSION

11 Sec.

12 9801. Definitions.

13 9802. Exclusion.

14 § 9801. 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 from that service under conditions other  
7 than dishonorable.

8 "Veterans' benefit payment." A service-connected  
9 compensation or payment which is earned by an individual as a  
10 result of the individual's status as a veteran.

11 § 9802. Exclusion.

12 (a) General rule.--Only 50% of a veterans' benefit payment  
13 may be included as income for any Commonwealth program.

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

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