



Senate Finance Committee

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Chairman

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BILL SUMMARY

SENATE BILL 1248, PN 1691 (SENATOR RHOADES)

Amendment A05778: This amendment changes the bill from an amendment to 2006 Special Session Act 1 to a freestanding act.

Summary:

Senate Bill 1248 amends the Taxpayer Relief Act to provide for home heating relief. Specifically, Senate Bill 1248 amends the law governing Pennsylvania's Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program in order to provide home heating fuel rebates to senior citizens and others who are eligible to receive property and rent assistance. These home heating fuel rebates would be paid out of funds that have not been expended on property tax and rent rebates in 2007.

As of December 31, 2007, the Department of Revenue reported that \$84 million appropriated for the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program is unencumbered. Although the pool of Pennsylvanians eligible for this program was expanded in 2006, fewer people applied for the rebates than had been expected. This resulted in \$84 million in funds that remains in the program but cannot otherwise be used.

Senate Bill 1248 proposes to direct this \$84 million to home heating fuel rebates.

Effective Date:

This act shall take effect in 60 days.