WISCONSIN TAX BULLETIN

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SPECIAL BULLETIN

NEW LAW AFFECTS 1981 HOMESTEAD CREDIT AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION CREDIT: SOCIAL SECURITY, SSI, AND VETERANS PENSION AND DISABILITY PAYMENTS FOR JANUARY, 1982 NOT INCLUDED IN 1981 INCOME

A. Background: Many recipients of social security, supplemental security income (SSI), and veterans pension and disability payments received their checks for the month of January, 1982 in the mail on December 30 or 31, 1981. These checks for January, 1982 were dated December 31, 1981. For those persons who have such payments sent directly to their bank, in many instances the payment was received by the bank on December 31, 1981.

According to old law, (before enactment of Chapter 110, Laws of 1981) persons who received their social security, SSI, or veterans pension or disability check for January, 1982 in December, 1981 would have to include such payment in income on their 1981 homestead credit claim or farmland preservation credit claim.

- B. New Law: The legislature enacted a new law, Chapter 110, Laws of 1981 (published February 6, 1982) providing that persons who received their social security, SSI, or veterans pension or disability payments for January, 1982 in December, 1981 shall not include such January, 1982 payments in income for 1981 homestead credit or farmland preservation credit purposes. Rather, such payments for January, 1982 must be included in income on 1982 homestead credit claims or 1982 farmland preservation credit claims filed in 1983.
- C. What Should You Do If You Have Already Filed A 1981 Homestead Credit Claim Or Farmland Preservation Credit Claim And Included In Income The January, 1982 Payments For Social Security, SSI, Or Veterans Pension Or Disability:

An amended homestead credit claim (Schedule H) or farmland preservation credit claim (Schedule FC) should be filed with the Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 8906, Madison, WI 53708. The word "AMENDED" should be written at the top of the front side of the Schedule H or FC. A letter should also be attached to the Schedule H or FC explaining the reason for the reduction in income and indicating the amount of January, 1982 social security, SSI, or veterans pension or disability payments you included in 1981 income on your original 1981 claim.

Important Notice: If the income reported on Line 12 of the 1981 homestead credit claim (Schedule H) that you filed was less than \$6,000, do not file an amended claim. When a person's income (on Line 12 of Schedule H) is less than \$6,000, the amount of homestead credit is based solely on a percentage of the person's property taxes or rent constituting property taxes. The amount of income on Line 12 does not affect the computation of the homestead credit if the income is less than \$6,000.