

No. 1977-14

## AN ACT

SB 470

Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An act to consolidate, editorially revise and codify the public welfare laws of the Commonwealth," excluding any increase in certain blind benefits in determining income eligibility for amount of State blind pensions.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The last paragraph of section 506, act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the "Public Welfare Code," amended July 9, 1976 (P.L.540, No.130), is amended to read:

Section 506. Eligibility.—\* \* \*

With respect to the determination of eligibility for State blind pension, the value of real property shall be deemed to be its assessed value minus encumbrances but in no case shall the assessed value be more than thirty percent of the official market value; the value of personal property shall be deemed to be its actual value; and interest in property owned by the entireties shall be deemed to be a one-half interest. Determination of the amount of an applicant's income and the value of his property shall be made by the department without regard to any Federal laws or regulations respecting income and resources of applicants for aid to the blind. The valuation of real property for the purposes of clause (4) shall not be increased by reason of reassessment, except to the extent that the real property has been actually enlarged or improved. Determination of the amount of an applicant's income shall exclude any increase in (i) social security payments to him provided under Federal law and taking effect subsequent to January 1, 1971; (ii) railroad retirement benefits provided to him under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937, 45 U.S.C. § 228 et seq., **and taking effect subsequent to January 1, 1976;** and (iii) veterans' benefits provided to him and administered by the Veterans' Administration **and taking effect subsequent to January 1, 1976.**

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 21st day of June, A. D. 1977.

MILTON J. SHAPP