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ORD-FY-24-XX
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, DIVISION 5, SECTION 2-107
OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA
ENTITLED TAX EXEMPTION AND DEFERRALS FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED
BY INCREASING THE INCOME LIMITS
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF

BE IT ORDAINED, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, that Chapter 2, Division 5, Section 2-107 of the Code of the County of Montgomery, Virginia entitled Tax Exemption and Deferrals for Elderly and Handicapped shall be amended and reordained as follows:

Sec. 2-107. Established; restrictions and conditions.

(a) The board of supervisors of the county hereby provides for the exemption from or deferral of taxation of real estate, and manufactured homes as defined in Code of Virginia, § 36-85.3, or any portion thereof, owned by and occupied as the sole dwelling of a person not less than sixty-five (65) years of age, and providing the same exemption for such property of a person who is determined to be permanently and totally disabled as provided in subsection (e) of this section, subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

(1) That the total combined income during the immediately preceding calendar year from all sources of the owners of the dwelling living therein and of the owners' relatives living in the dwelling does not exceed ~~fifty-one thousand dollars ($51,000)~~ **sixty-eight thousand dollars ($68,000)** provided that the first ten thousand dollars ($10,000.00) of income of each relative other than the spouse of the owner who is living in the dwelling and the first ten thousand dollars ($10,000.00) of income for an owner who is permanently disabled shall not be included in such total.

(2) That the net combined financial worth, including the present value of all equitable interests, as of December thirty-first of the immediately preceding calendar year, of the owners, and of the spouse of any owner, excluding the value of the dwelling and furnishings in the dwelling including furniture, household appliances and other items typically used in a home and the land, not exceeding one (1) acre, upon which it is situated does not exceed ~~one hundred fifty~~ two hundred thousand dollars $~~150,000~~$200,000.

(3) That the person or persons claiming such exemption files annually no later than the first day of March of the taxable year with the commissioner of the revenue of the county, on forms to be supplied by the county, an affidavit or written statement setting forth the names of the related persons occupying such real estate; that the total combined net worth, including equitable interests, and the combined income from all sources of the person as specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection does not exceed

the limits prescribed in this section. If such person is under sixty-five (65) years of age, such form shall have attached thereto a certification by the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the Railroad Retirement Board, or if such person is not eligible for certification by any of these agencies, a sworn affidavit by two (2) medical doctors who are either licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth or who are military officers on active duty who practice medicine with the United States Armed Forces, to the effect that such person is permanently and totally disabled as defined in subsection (e); however, a certification pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 4-23(d) by the Social Security Administration so long as the person remains eligible for such Social Security benefits shall be deemed to satisfy such definition in subsection (e). The affidavit of at least one (1) of the doctors shall be based upon a physical examination of the person by such doctor. The affidavit of one of the doctors may be based upon medical information contained in the records of the Civil Service Commission which is relevant to the standards for determining permanent and total disability as defined in subsection (e). Such certification, written statement, or affidavit shall be filed after the first day of January of each year, but before the first day of April of each year, for the permanently and totally disabled, for hardship cases, and for the first time applicants. The commissioner of the revenue has the discretion to accept late filings of first time applicants or for hardship cases until the thirty-first day of December of the taxable year. The commissioner of the revenue of the county shall make any other reasonably necessary inquiry of persons seeking such exemption, requiring answers under oath to determine qualifications as specified in this section, including qualifications as permanently and totally disabled as defined in subsection (e) and qualification for the exclusion of life insurance benefits paid upon the death of an owner of a dwelling. The commissioner of the revenue of the county is hereby empowered, in addition to require the production of certified tax returns to establish the income or financial worth of any applicant for tax relief or deferral.

(b) Such exemptions may be granted for any year following the date that the qualifying individual occupying such dwelling and owning title, or partial title, thereto reaches the age of sixty-five (65) years or for any year following the date the disability occurred. Changes in respect to income, financial worth, ownership of property or other factors occurring during the taxable year for which the affidavit is filed, and having the effect of exceeding or violating the limitations and conditions provided in this section shall nullify any exemption or deferral for the remainder of the current taxable year and the taxable year immediately following. The amount of exemption of the real estate tax for qualified persons shall be determined by the following table:

Annual Income (Calendar Year)	*For Qualified Persons the Percentage of Tax Which May Be Exempted*
$0-~~$32,600~~ **$43,200**	100%
~~$32,601-$40,800~~ $43,201-$55,000	60%
~~$40,801-$51,000~~ $55,001-$68,000	40%

(c) The person or persons qualifying for and claiming deferral shall be relieved of real estate tax liability levied on the qualifying dwelling and land up to an amount equal to one hundred

(100) percent of this liability, the amount to be deferred to be elected by the claimant. If a deferral of real estate taxes, the accumulated amount of taxes deferred shall be paid without penalty or interest to the county by the vendor upon the sale of the dwelling, or from the estate of the decedent within one (1) year after the death of the last owner thereof who qualified for tax deferral by the provisions of this section. Such deferred real estate taxes shall constitute a lien upon such real estate as if they had been assessed without regard to the deferral permitted by this section. Any such lien shall, to the extent that it exceeds in the aggregate ten (10) percent of the price for which such real estate may be sold, be inferior to all other liens of record.

(d) The board of supervisors of the county hereby deems those persons falling within the limits and conditions provided in subsections (a) and (b) of this section to bearing an extraordinary tax burden on the real estate described in this section in relation to their income and financial worth.

(e) For the purposes of this division, a person is permanently and totally disabled if he or she is so certified as required in paragraph (a)(3) of this section and is found by the commissioner of the revenue of the county under paragraph (a)(3) to be unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment or deformity which can be expected to result in death or can be expected to last for the duration of such person's life.

This change in income limits shall be effective for the ~~2013~~ 2024 tax year and beyond unless amended.