

STATE TAX COMMISSION POLICY REGARDING REQUESTS FOR PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS IN TAXABLE VALUE FOR POVERTY EXEMPTIONS UNDER MCL 211.7u

Public Act 253 of 2020 amended MCL 211.7u related to poverty exemptions. PA 191 of 2023 amended the lists specific percentage reductions in taxable value that may be used by the board of review in granting a poverty exemption. MCL 211.7u(5) states that if a person claiming the poverty exemption meets all eligibility requirements, the board of review shall grant the poverty exemption, in whole or in part, as follows:

1. A full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted; or
2. A partial exemption equal to a 75% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted; or
3. A partial exemption equal to a 50% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted; or
4. A partial exemption equal to a 25% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted.

No other method of calculating taxable value may be utilized, except for those percentage reductions specifically authorized in statute, or any other percentage reduction approved by the State Tax Commission. The Commission shall use the following process for the filing, review, and approval of local assessing unit requests to utilize a percentage reduction in taxable value when approving poverty exemptions under MCL 211.7u:

1. A local assessing unit that wants to use any other percentage reduction(s) in taxable value other than the reductions specifically authorized in statute must obtain permission for use of such percentage reduction(s) by filing Form 5738, *Request For Approval of Percentage Reduction in Taxable Value For Poverty Exemptions Under MCL 211.7u* with the State Tax Commission.
2. The local assessing unit must indicate on the Form the specific percentage reduction(s) in taxable value requested and an explanation of how the requested percentage reduction(s) will be calculated and applied when granting a poverty exemption. Based on case law, calculations that utilize any of the following are **not** permitted:
 - a. A limitation on the maximum value of the principal residence eligible to receive an exemption.
 - b. A requirement that the principal residence must be owned for a certain number of years before a claim for exemption can be made.
 - c. A limitation on the number of years an exemption can be claimed and received.
3. If a person meets all eligibility requirements in statute for receiving a full or partial exemption, the calculation for the percentage reduction in taxable value cannot result in a person receiving no relief, i.e., the calculation cannot result in a taxable value greater than or equal to the taxable value *prior* to application for the poverty exemption in that tax year.

4. Form 5738 must be completed in its entirety and signed by the local assessing unit clerk and assessing officer.
5. The completed Form and any attachments must be submitted to the State Tax Commission at: State Tax Commission, PO Box 30471, Lansing, MI 48909 or by email to State-Tax- Commission@michigan.gov.
6. Requests will be reviewed by State Tax Commission staff. If insufficient documentation was provided by the local assessing unit, the local assessing unit will be notified in writing and will be permitted to submit adequate documentation to the State Tax Commission within 30 days of the written notice. If adequate documentation is not submitted within the deadline, staff will recommend that the State Tax Commission deny the request.
7. Upon receipt of a completed request, staff will review the proposed percentage reduction(s) in taxable value and explanation of how the reduction(s) will be calculated and applied when granting a poverty exemption. Staff recommendations to approve or deny a local unit request will be forwarded to the State Tax Commission for review and decision.
8. If approved, the local assessing unit will receive written notification within 14 days of the State Tax Commission meeting approving the request.
9. A local assessing unit that wishes to modify any percentage reduction(s) previously approved by the Commission must do so by submitting a new Form 5738 with the requested percentages.