

HOMESTEAD/FARMSTEAD APPLICATION FILING AND INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS

December 14, 2016 – Applications for property tax relief through Act 1 of 2006 for public school taxes, more commonly known as the Homestead/Farmstead exclusion, will be mailed to property owners by December 31, 2016. Homestead/Farmstead exclusion applications will be mailed to over 7,900 property owners, which may have never applied for or may now be eligible for exclusion due to changes in the property status. Property owners that currently have an approved Homestead/Farmstead property exclusion on file will not need to submit an application, however, it is advised that anyone receiving an application should complete it and return it to the Assessment Office to determine eligibility. The application must be filed with the Somerset County Assessment Office by March 1, 2017 to be reviewed for approval or denial. If you did not receive an application through the mail, applications are available from your local school district's business office or through Somerset County's Assessment Office.

There is not a filing fee for the submission of an application. Residents who live in owner occupied properties can apply for property tax relief; however the exclusion is not applicable to rental property. Property tax relief will not happen automatically. The property, occupied by the owner, must be designated as a homestead or farmstead property through the application and approval process. Within 30 days of the March 1, 2017 deadline, Somerset County's Assessment Office will mail a notice indicating whether or not the application has been approved.

The installment payment method may be used to pay school district property tax payments. With the installment option, payments must be paid at the face amount and taxpayers will not be eligible for the two percent discount. The option allows property owners to pay their taxes in three installments. Further explanation of the option will be printed on the annual tax notices.

Questions may be addressed to the Assessment Office at 445-1536.