

THOMAS P. GORDON
County Executive



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EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

County Executive Signs Ordinance Exemption for Senior Tax

County Executive Tom Gordon has signed an ordinance sponsored by New Castle County Councilman David Tackett to give seniors, persons with disabilities, and disabled veterans more time to apply for the tax exemption for which they are entitled.

Ordinance No. 14-044 was approved by County Council unanimously on May 13. The Executive, Councilman Tackett and Council President Christopher Bullock subsequently held a signing ceremony. The amendment to County Code allows for an application to be filed within 30 days of properties being acquired after the June 1 deadline.

Previously, partial tax exemptions for taxpayers who were over 65, disabled, or disabled veterans had to have been filed with New Castle County's Assessment Section by June 1 of the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year for which the exemptions were sought. However, the death of the property owner or the transfer of the property from one qualifying relative or spouse to another after June 1 would often preclude them from the tax benefit if the deadline had passed.

This ordinance provides that no annual application must be filed once an exemption for a parcel is granted.

"This legislation will ultimately help members of our most vulnerable population," County Executive Gordon said. "Seniors and those with disabilities should not be stripped of the senior tax credit just because of a move or a transfer of property due to a death in the family."

"I am honored to represent our senior and disabled citizens who really use these exemptions in times of transition," Councilman Tackett said. "At one point or another, everyone needs that little extra break in order to make their lives slightly more livable. I am glad I was given the opportunity to assist those citizens who have given so much to our community."