

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1657

S. P. 527

In Senate, March 29, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Taxation. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Graffam of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT to Provide a Homestead Tax Credit for Elderly Persons.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

R. S., T. 36, c. 105, sub-c. VIII-A, additional. Chapter 105 of Title 36 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new subchapter VIII-A to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER VIII-A
HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT

§ 861. Homestead tax credit

A direct tax credit of 3% to total \$150 on property taxes of all elderly in the State of Maine, without regard to amount of income or assets on the real property owned and occupied by them as their place of dwelling, shall be allowed.

1. Dwelling. Dwelling should be defined as a building owned and occupied by the applicant for a period of 12 months prior to an application for tax exemption. A proportionate part of a multiple unit dwelling should be considered as a dwelling when owned and when occupied by the owner. Dwelling should also include a mobile home or house trailer used as a dwelling if established on a permanent foundation.

2. Eligibility.

A. Any person who has attained the age of 65 years or whose spouse has attained the age of 65 years, under joint tenancy, own and occupy their home as their principal dwelling.

- B. No exemption should be granted on any real estate not actually occupied by the applicant as his permanent dwelling at the time of application.
- C. An applicant must reside upon the property April 1st and in good faith make the same his permanent home.
- D. The applicant must be a legal resident of Maine.
- E. New applications must be signed by the applicant, joint tenancy by both.
- F. An applicant must apply for or renew his exemption on or before April 1st each year. When the application for exemption is not filed by April 1st, neither the assessor of taxes nor any other officer should have authority to grant this exemption after April 1st. The right to exemption is waived for that year.
- G. Any person who shall knowingly give false information for the purpose of claiming homestead tax credit shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or by both.

FISCAL NOTE

It is estimated the loss of revenue to the State will not be in excess of \$1,500 which includes all those in the unorganized territories.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The intent of this legislation is to provide a direct tax credit of 3% on real property taxes to elderly persons of the State regardless of other assets.