

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 432

H. P. 341

House of Representatives, February 10, 1977

On motion of Mr. Carey of Waterville, referred to the Committee on Taxation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Ms. Goodwin of Bath.

Cosponsors: Mr. Greenlaw of Stonington, Mr. Bagley of Winthrop, Mr. Valentine of York.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT Amending the Elderly Householders Tax and Rent Refund Act to  
Expand the Eligibility Ceiling for Low Income Elderly.**

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**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Elderly Householders Tax and Rent Refund Program assists fixed income elderly to afford to remain in their own homes; and

Whereas, the program begins on August 1st, which is prior to the date legislation enacted by the 108th Legislature becomes effective; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**Sec. 1.** 36 MRSA § 6108, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 634, § 3, is amended to read:

**§ 6108. Income limitation**

No claim otherwise allowable shall be granted to claimants of single member households with household income in excess of ~~\$4,500~~ \$5,000 in the year for which relief is requested; and no claim otherwise allowable shall be granted to claimants of households of 2 or more members with income in excess of ~~\$5,000~~ \$6,000 in the year for which relief is requested.

**Sec. 2.** 36 MRSA § 6112, as last repealed and replaced by PL 1973, c. 771, § 2, is amended to read:

**§ 6112. Amount of claim**

The claim shall be limited to the amount by which property taxes accrued, or rent constituting property taxes accrued in such tax year on the claimant's homestead, is in excess of 21% of such household income which exceeds ~~\$3,000~~ \$3,500 but does not exceed ~~\$5,000~~ \$6,000.

**Sec. 3. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Elderly Householders Tax and Rent Refund Program the sum of \$1,850,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1978 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

### STATEMENT OF FACT

**The purpose of this bill is to raise the income eligibility ceiling for elderly property tax and rent refunds and to increase the refunds granted to those eligible for the program.**