

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 112

S. P. 75

In Senate, January 8, 1981

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Pierce of Kennebec.

Cosponsor: Senator Conley of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Index the Income Eligibility Levels Under the Elderly Householders Tax and Rent Refund Program.

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA § 6108, as amended by PL 1977, c. 686, § 16, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 6108. Income limitation

The amounts of income for households to qualify as provided in this chapter shall be adjusted annually beginning in 1982 in a uniform manner not later than the first day of March to reflect the annual rate of inflation in the preceding calendar years as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor with respect to the Boston, Massachusetts area. Such annual adjustments shall be equivalent to the percent of change in the Consumer Price Index for the month of December in the calendar year as compared to the Consumer Price Index for the month of December next preceding, provided each adjustment of qualifying income shall be determined to the nearest \$100. Each annual adjustment of qualifying income is applicable in determining the amount of refund allowed under this chapter with respect to property taxes accrued or rent constituting property taxes accrued for the prior income year.

No claim otherwise allowable may be granted to claimants of single member households with household income in excess of \$5,600 for the year 1981; and no claim otherwise allowable may be granted to claimants of households of 2 or more members with income in excess of \$6,700 for the year 1981.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1981-82	1982-83
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF		
Bureau of Taxation		
All Other	\$938,356	\$1,098,798

STATEMENT OF FACT

Over 800 recipients of the Elderly Householders Tax and Rent Refund Program in 1979 were not eligible this year for benefits because they received inflationary increases of 14.3% under Social Security. Many are low-income elderly who are greatly assisted by the refund they receive from this program. Because the income guidelines are the same for the Elderly Householders Tax and Rent Refund Program and the Elderly Low-Cost Drug Program, these same elderly will lose the benefit of receiving low-cost prescription drugs.

This bill would simply increase the income guidelines of these 2 programs based on increases in the Consumer Price Index. The benefits would not be increased at all.

This was a recommendation from the 1980 Blaine House Conference on Aging which was attended by over 450 elderly Maine citizens.