

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1088
(Filing No. H-575)

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE AMENDMENT "D" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 776,
L.D. 1088, Bill, "An Act to Provide Comprehensive Property Tax
Relief"

Amend the amendment in the emergency preamble in the 2nd
"Whereas," paragraph in the first and 2nd lines (page 1, lines
23 and 24 in amendment) by striking out the following:
"household tax and rent refund program" and inserting in its
place the following: 'Maine Residents Property Tax Program'

Further amend amendment in Part B by inserting before
section 1 the following:

'Sec. 1. 36 MRSA c. 907, first 2 lines are repealed and the
following enacted in their place:

CHAPTER 907

MAINE RESIDENTS PROPERTY TAX PROGRAM

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §6201, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 516,
§§3 and 6, is amended read:

1. Benefit base. "Benefit base" means property taxes
accrued or rent constituting property taxes accrued. In the case
of a claimant paying both rent and property taxes for a
homestead, benefit base means both property taxes accrued and
rent constituting property taxes accrued.

Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §6201-A is enacted to read:

§6201-A. Short title

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Maine
Residents Property Tax Program."

Further amend the amendment in Part B by inserting after
section 4 the following:

1 'Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §§6218 to 6220 are enacted to read:

3 §6218. Readability; application; instructions

5 The application form and instructions used by applicants for
7 assistance under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program and its
9 successor, if any, shall have a readability score, as determined
11 by a recognized instrument for measuring adult literacy levels,
13 equivalent to no higher than a 6th grade reading level.

15 §6219. Outreach plan required

17 The Bureau of Taxation shall develop and implement a plan of
19 outreach to ensure that all eligible households are made aware of
21 assistance available under the Maine Residents Property Tax
23 Program and its successor, if any.

25 §6220. Coordination required

27 The Bureau of Taxation shall seek the advice and cooperation
29 of the Bureau of Maine's Elderly; the Bureau of Income
31 Maintenance; the Division of Community Services; advocates for
33 elderly and low-income individuals; the Maine Literacy Coalition;
35 and other interested agencies and organizations in developing the
37 application form and instruction booklet for the Maine Residents
39 Property Tax Program and the outreach plan required by section
41 6219.'

43 Further amend the amendment in Part B by renumbering the
45 sections to read consecutively.

47 Further amend the amendment in Part C in that part
49 designated "§6261" in subsection 1 in paragraph A in the first
51 line (page 10, line 41 in amendment) by striking out the
53 underlined figure "60" and inserting in its place the underlined
55 figure '65'

57 Further amend the amendment in Part C in that part
59 designated "§6261" in subsection 2 in the 8th line (page 11, line
61 5 in amendment) by striking out the underlined figure "62" and
63 inserting in its place the underlined figure '65'

65 Further amend the amendment in Part E in section 1 by adding
67 after the 2nd sentence a new sentence to read: 'The President of
69 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
71 ensure that at least 2 of the commission members represent
73 communities which receive 0 to 25% of their school costs through
75 the state education funding formula.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This amendment adds a new chapter heading and title to the household tax and rent refund act; requires certain administrative changes to the property tax program; makes a technical correction to the bill in Part C; and ensures that at least 2 of the members of the commission to study problems with the municipal assessment, valuation and collection of property taxes represent high-valuation communities, that is, communities which receive 0 to 25% of their school costs through the state education funding formula.

Filed by Rep. Cashman of Old Town
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House
6/16/89

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