

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

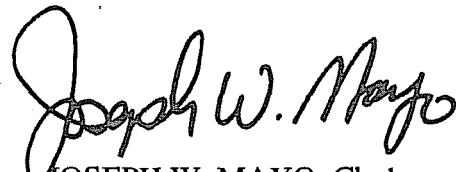
No. 986

H.P. 727

House of Representatives, March 22, 1993

An Act to Expand Eligibility and to Assure that Payments Made Under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program are Applied to the Payment of Local Property Taxes.

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative COLES of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and
Representatives: NADEAU of Saco, RAND of Portland, TOWNSEND of Eastport, Senators:
DUTREMBLE of York, LAWRENCE of York.

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

2
3 Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §6207, sub-§1, ¶A-1, as enacted by PL 1989, c.
4 878, Pt. B, §37, is amended to read:

6 A-1. Fifty percent of that portion of the benefit base that
7 exceeds 4.5% 3% but does not exceed 8.5% 6% of household
8 income, plus 100% of that portion of the benefit base that
9 exceeds 8.5% 6% of income to a maximum payment of \$3,000.

10
11 Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §6207, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1991, c. 780,
12 Pt. Q, §3 and affected by §5, is further amended to read:

14 2. **Income eligibility.** Claimants with household incomes in
15 excess of \$50,000 \$65,000 are not eligible for a benefit.

16
17 Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §6210, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 516, §§3 and
18 6, is amended to read:

19
20 **§6210. Administration**

21 The State Tax Assessor shall make available suitable forms
22 with instructions for claimants. The claim shall must be in the
23 form the State Tax Assessor ~~may prescribe~~ prescribes and shall be
24 signed by the claimant. The State Tax Assessor shall require the
25 claimant to submit evidence that the tax of which a refund is
26 being claimed has been paid or that the claimant and the taxing
27 municipality have agreed that any refund will be made payable to
28 both the claimant and the municipality.

29
30 Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §6216, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 1989, c. 614,
31 is further amended to read:

32
33 Benefits received under this chapter may not be included as
34 income for purposes of any state or municipally administered
35 public benefit program but may be considered for purposes of
36 determining eligibility for abatement deferral under section 841,
37 subsection 2 and for general assistance under Title 22, chapter
38 1161. The Bureau of Taxation may release to the municipal
39 officials responsible for determining eligibility for general
40 assistance any information about the eligibility of the applicant
41 for benefits under this chapter, the amount of benefits paid or
42 to be paid, if any, and the date of actual or expected payment.

43
44
45
46
47
48 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

49 This bill changes the income eligibility level under the
50 Maine Residents Property Tax Program, the "circuit breaker"

2 program, from \$50,000 to \$65,000. The bill also changes the
benefit calculation for claimants representing a nonelderly
household.

4

6 Under current law, refunds under the program are now paid
directly to the applicant homeowner or renter. Homeowner
8 claimants are not required to prove that the tax has actually
been paid. This bill provides that refunds may not be made
10 unless the tax being refunded has actually been paid, or unless
the claimant and the municipality have agreed that the refund
12 will be paid to them jointly, in order to ensure payment of the
tax.

14

The bill also provides that benefits received under the
16 program may be considered for purposes of determining eligibility
for general assistance.