

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 220

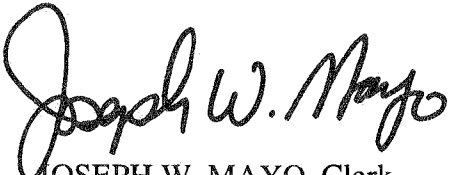
H.P. 165

House of Representatives, January 16, 1997

An Act to Increase the Tax Relief in the Maine Residents Property Tax Program.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative LEMAIRE of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator MICHAUD of Penobscot and
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, CHIZMAR of Lisbon, FARNSWORTH of Portland,
GERRY of Auburn, MAILHOT of Lewiston, Senator: NUTTING of Androscoggin.

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

Whereas, this legislation amends the Maine Residents Property Tax Program to raise the income eligibility level for households badly in need of property tax relief; and

Whereas, this legislation would amend the Maine Residents Property Tax Program to allow more people to be eligible for property tax relief; 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 §6207, sub-§1, ¶A-1, as amended by PL 1995, c. 639, §32, is further amended to read:

A-1. Fifty percent of that portion of the benefit base that exceeds 5.0% but does not exceed 10.0% of income plus 100% of that portion of the benefit base that exceeds 10% of income to a maximum payment of \$700 ~~\$900~~.

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §6207, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1995, c. 368, Pt. CCC, §9 and affected by §11, is further amended to read:

2. **Income eligibility.** Single-member households with household incomes in excess of \$25,000 and households with 2 or more members with a household income in excess of ~~\$35,000~~ \$45,000 are not eligible for a benefit.

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

SUMMARY

This bill amends the benefit and eligibility criteria of the Maine Residents Property Tax Program by increasing the income eligibility to \$45,000 from \$35,000 for multi-member households. The bill also amends the benefit calculation to increase the maximum payment from \$700 to \$900.