

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2263

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TAXATION

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STATE OF MAINE SENATE 118TH LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 850, L.D. 2263, Bill, "An Act to Allow a Municipality to Request a Joint Check from the Maine Residents Property Tax Program in the Event of Nonpayment of Taxes"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §6203-A is enacted to read:

§6203-A. Payment by joint check

A municipality may request that checks issued in payment of claims under this chapter be issued payable jointly to the claimant and to the municipality if a tax lien has been filed by the municipality in the registry of deeds on the property that is the basis of the claim for payment under this chapter. A municipality requesting joint payment under this section shall provide the bureau annually, by the date established by the bureau, with a list of all homestead property against which a lien has been filed in the registry of deeds. The list must contain any other information required by the bureau to match the names of persons on the list with claimants for benefits under this chapter. The bureau shall compare the list with the names of persons entitled to benefits under this chapter and, if the bureau determines that tax liens have been filed against homestead property owned by any person entitled to benefits under this chapter, the bureau shall issue the payment jointly to the claimant and the municipality. Any information received by a municipal official or municipal employee under this section must be considered confidential in the same manner as provided in section 191.

2 **Sec. 2. Application.** This Act applies to claims submitted
4 under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, chapter 907 beginning
 August 1, 1999.'

6 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
 summary the following:

10 **FISCAL NOTE**

12 The Bureau of Revenue Services will require additional
14 General Fund appropriations beginning in fiscal year 1999-00 for
 an additional Tax Examiner and related administrative costs to
16 manage the additional responsibilities under the Maine Residents
 Property Tax Program. The estimated costs associated with this
18 position and related administrative expenses will be \$45,000
 annually. In addition to the position-related costs, the bureau
20 will require additional funding for the costs to establish a new
 database that will be linked to existing bureau information
22 systems. These one-time costs are estimated to be approximately
 \$50,000.'

24 **SUMMARY**

26 This amendment provides that municipalities requesting joint
28 checks must provide a list of all liens against homestead
 property to the Bureau of Revenue Services, clarifies the
30 procedure for determining when joint checks should be issued and
 provides that information acquired by municipal officials or
32 employees is confidential. The amendment also adds a fiscal note.