

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 85

H.P. 72

House of Representatives, January 11, 1999

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**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine  
to Provide Tax Relief for Maine Citizens.**

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Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative PLOWMAN of Hampden.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BUCK of Yarmouth, LEMONT of Kittery, LINDAHL of  
Northport, MADORE of Augusta, USHER of Westbrook.

2           **Constitutional amendment. Resolved:** Two thirds of each  
branch of the Legislature concurring, that the following  
amendment to the Constitution of Maine be proposed:

4           **Constitution, Art. IX, §8, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

6           5. Tax relief for older citizens. Beginning with the  
8 property tax year that starts April 1, 2000, any person having  
10 legal or beneficial title to real property in this State and who  
12 is liable for property taxes is entitled to property tax relief  
14 for that portion of the property for which relief is sought  
16 consisting of the principal dwelling and no more than 10  
18 contiguous acres if the person in any year that relief is sought:

20           A. Is a permanent resident of this State;

22           B. Is 65 years of age or older and any adults domiciled  
24 with the person are 65 years of age or older;

26           C. Occupies as a home the real property for which the  
28 person seeks relief; and

30           D. Earns less than 110% of the poverty income level as  
32 established in the most recent United States poverty  
34 guidelines issued in the Federal Register by the Department  
36 of Health and Human Services.

38           A person meeting the qualifications set out in this subsection  
40 may file a claim for property tax relief with the tax assessor of  
42 the municipality in which the property is located and, upon  
44 approval, shall pay the tax levied on that property for the first  
46 year a claim for relief is filed and may continue to pay in each  
48 subsequent year the same amount of tax or such lesser amount as  
may be levied against the real property.

; and be it further

38           **Constitutional referendum procedure; form of question; effective**  
40 **date. Resolved:** That the municipal officers of this State shall  
42 notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and  
44 plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding  
a statewide election, at a statewide election, on the Tuesday  
following the first Monday of November following the passage of  
this resolution, to vote upon the ratification of the amendment  
proposed in this resolution by voting upon the following question:

46           "Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine as proposed  
48 by a resolution of the Legislature to freeze under certain

