

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 180

H.P. 169

House of Representatives, January 18, 2001

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### An Act to Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption.

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Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative BUNKER of Kossuth Township.  
Cosponsored by Senator GAGNON of Kennebec and  
Representatives: BULL of Freeport, CARR of Lincoln, CLARK of Millinocket, JONES of  
Greenville, RICHARDSON of Brunswick, STANLEY of Medway, WHEELER of  
Bridgewater, Senator: CATHCART of Penobscot.

2  
3 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §683, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 643,  
5 Pt. HHH, §3 and affected by §10, is amended to read:

6 **1. Exemption amount.** The estate up to the just value of  
7 \$7,000 ~~\$15,000~~ of the homestead of a permanent resident of this  
8 State who has owned a homestead in this State for the preceding  
9 12 months is exempt from taxation except for assessments for  
10 special benefits. In determining the local assessed value of the  
11 exemption, the assessor shall multiply the amount of the  
12 exemption by the ratio of current just value upon which the  
13 assessment is based as furnished in the assessor's annual return  
14 pursuant to section 383. If the title to a homestead is held by  
15 the applicant jointly or in common with others, the exemption may  
16 not exceed \$7,000 ~~\$15,000~~ of the just value of the homestead, but  
17 may be apportioned among the owners who reside on the property to  
18 the extent of their respective interests. A municipality  
19 responsible for administering the homestead exemption has no  
20 obligation to create separate accounts for each partial interest  
21 in a homestead owned jointly or in common. For taxes based on  
22 the status of property after 2002, the just value of a homestead  
23 that may be exempted increases by \$1,000 annually from \$15,000 to  
24 a maximum of \$25,000.

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26 **SUMMARY**

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28 This bill increases the homestead property tax exemption  
29 from \$7,000 to \$15,000 and increases it annually in increments of  
30 \$1,000 until a maximum exemption of \$25,000 is achieved.