

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 1444

H.P. 1013

House of Representatives, March 15, 2007

### **An Act To Index the Veterans' Property Tax Exemptions to the Cost of Living**

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Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BURNS of Berwick.  
Cosponsored by Senator SHERMAN of Aroostook and  
Representatives: CANAVAN of Waterville, CARTER of Bethel, FARRINGTON of Gorham,  
HARLOW of Portland, JACOBSEN of Waterboro, VAUGHAN of Durham, WALCOTT of  
Lewiston, WEAVER of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§2** is enacted to read:

3 **2. Adjustment for inflation.** The State Tax Assessor shall make the following  
4 adjustments to the dollar amounts in this section and shall notify local assessors of any  
5 adjustments.

6 A. On or about March 1st annually, the assessor shall adjust the dollar amounts in  
7 this section by the change in the Consumer Price Index as defined in section 5402,  
8 subsection 1 for the previous calendar year over the preceding year.

9 B. If the assessor determines that federal funds are available to the State to permit the  
10 State to reimburse municipalities for the cost of additional increases in the dollar  
11 amounts in this section, the assessor shall increase each dollar amount in this section  
12 by the same proportion, based on the amount of available federal funds.

13 **Sec. 2. Federal funds.** The State Tax Assessor shall investigate the availability of  
14 federal funds to permit an increase in veterans' exemptions and shall consult with other  
15 states to determine how veterans' exemptions in other states are funded. The Governor  
16 shall contact members of the Maine Congressional Delegation for assistance in obtaining  
17 federal funds to permit an increase in veterans' exemptions and to encourage them to  
18 advocate for additional funds.

19

## SUMMARY

20 This bill provides for annual inflation adjustments in veterans' property tax  
21 exemptions and for additional increases if federal funds can be identified to permit  
22 reimbursement to municipalities. The bill also requires the State Tax Assessor to explore  
23 federal and other sources of funding for veterans' exemptions and requires the Governor  
24 to seek assistance from the Maine Congressional Delegation in obtaining federal funds  
25 for that purpose.