

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/2/11

L.D. 474
(Filing No. H-475)

TAXATION

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
125TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 367, L.D. 474, Bill, "An Act To Reduce the Property Tax Burden and Improve the Circuitbreaker Program"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Improve the Circuitbreaker Program'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §6208, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 516, §§3 and 6, is amended to read:

§6208. Elderly option

If a claimant representing an elderly household would qualify for a larger benefit under section 6207 than ~~he~~ the claimant would receive under section 6206, then that claimant may choose to receive the benefit calculated under section 6207. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the benefit calculated under section 6207 may not be reduced to less than 100% of the amount determined under section 6207, subsection 1 if the claimant represents an elderly household with at least one member who has attained 65 years of age.

Sec. 2. Application. This Act applies to claims for benefits under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program filed for application periods that begin on or after August 1, 2011.'

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. It prohibits a reduction in benefit under the Circuitbreaker Program to an elderly household claimant with a household member who

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R.O.F.S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 367, L.D. 474

1 has attained 65 years of age and chooses the nonelderly household benefit calculation.
2 The benefit for claimants meeting these criteria may not be reduced below 100%. The
3 amendment retains the emergency provisions from the bill.

4

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

5

(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 474

LR 1474(02)

An Act To Reduce the Property Tax Burden and Improve the Circuitbreaker Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"

Committee: Taxation

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Potential Budget Conflict

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Although provisions in this bill have no impact on existing benefits under the Circuitbreaker Program, prohibiting the reduction of certain benefits for elderly household claimants meeting the criteria set forth in this bill would conflict with certain changes being considered in the Governor's proposed Biennial Budget Bill, LD 1043. This would reduce the amount of savings proposed in LD 1043 by \$3,781,298 in fiscal year 2011-12 and by \$3,876,981 in fiscal year 2012-13.