

LD 290 Property Tax Stabilization for Seniors has been repealed by the State Legislature

The LD 290 "Property Stabilization for Senior Citizens" program, enacted in August 2022, was repealed by the Maine State Legislature on July 6, 2023, with an effective date of October 11, 2023. This program allowed Maine seniors (65 and older) who had owned a permanent residence in Maine for at least 10 years and were receiving (or eligible for) a homestead exemption, to freeze taxes at the previous year's level regardless of income.

So for 2023 there will be no reapplication process.

For those who applied in 2022 and were approved the freeze will apply, unless the taxes were to go down then the lower of the bills would be owed by the tax payer.

Please remember that these are State programs and while we assist in administering them, the Town is not responsible the changes to the program.

Any questions or concerns should be directed our legislative representatives:

Caldwell Jackson at 207-272-8543.

Two Tax Relief Programs are Being Expanded

To help lower income seniors avoid higher property taxes and remain in their homes, two existing Sate programs are being expanded:

The **Property Tax Fairness Credit**, which currently allows eligible Mainers to take a \$1,500.00 credit will increase to \$2,000.00. PLEASE NOTE: This program is not administered by the Towns , to claim the credit, you must file form 1040ME and Schedule PTFC/STFC for the tax year during which the property tax or rent was paid. This is done through your Maine State Income Tax filing. For help please call 207-624-9784 or visit **Property Tax Fairness Credit Summary**.

The State Property Tax Deferral Program, a lifeline loan program that covers the annual property :

Tax bills of Maine seniors age 65 or older who cannot afford to pay them on their own, has been expanded. It doubled the income limit on that program to \$80,000.00 and also raised asset limits. Taxes must be paid back when the home is sold or becomes part of an estate. Again, the is not administered by the Town, questions on this Sate managed program should be directed to the Maine Revenue Services at **207-624-5600 or prop.tax@maine.gov**. For more info, please visit: **State Property Tax Deferral Program**.

I hope this information is helpful.

Paul Binette, J. E. O'Donnell Assessors for the Town of Hebron