

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §6201, sub-§5, as amended by PL 1995, c. 368, Pt. CCC, §7 and affected by §11, is further amended to read:

5. Homestead. "Homestead" means the dwelling owned or rented by the claimant or held in a revocable living trust for the benefit of the claimant and occupied by the claimant and the claimant's dependents as a home, and may consist of a part of a multidwelling or multipurpose building and a part of the land, up to 10 acres, upon which it is built. "Owned" includes a vendee in possession under a land contract and of one or more joint tenants or tenants in common and includes possession under a legally binding agreement that allows the owner of the dwelling to transfer the property but continue to occupy the dwelling as a home until some future event stated in the agreement.

Sec. 2. Adoption of rules. The State Tax Assessor shall adopt routine technical rules, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, to require, for applications filed on or after August 1, 2012, proof of rent paid when a claimant makes a claim under the Circuitbreaker Program based on rent paid in the amount of \$9,000 or more for the year and to establish a process and provide instructions for providing proof.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment clarifies that a person occupying a homestead under a legally binding agreement may transfer the property but continue to reside in it as a home until some specified future event and be eligible to apply for benefits under the Circuitbreaker Program. It requires the State Tax Assessor to adopt routine technical rules to require, for applications filed on or after August 1, 2012, proof of rent paid when the application for benefits under the Circuitbreaker Program is based on rent paid of \$9,000 or more for the year.