

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

## **An Act To Provide Additional Flexibility in the Municipal Property Tax Assistance Programs for Seniors**

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

**Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §6232, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 395, §4, is amended to read:

The legislative body of a municipality may by ordinance adopt a program to provide benefits to persons with homesteads in the municipality. A municipality may choose to restrict the program to persons who ~~are at least~~meet minimum age requirements as long as the minimum is not less than 62 years of age.

**Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §6232, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 635, §1, is further amended to read:

**1. Conditions of program.** Except as provided in subsection 1-A, a program adopted under this section must:

- A. Require that the claimant has maintained a homestead in the municipality for a certain period of time, as determined by the municipality;
- B. Provide benefits for both owners and renters of homesteads; and
- C. Calculate benefits in a way that provides greater benefits proportionally to claimants with lower incomes in relation to their property taxes accrued or rent constituting property taxes accrued.

A program adopted under this section may impose additional standards of eligibility and procedures, as long as those standards are established by the municipality by ordinance.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill amends the law regarding municipal property tax assistance programs to provide more flexibility to municipalities that choose to implement a program by allowing the municipality to establish:

1. A minimum age for eligibility, as long as that age is at least 62 years; and
2. A minimum length of time that the claimant has maintained a homestead in the municipality.

A municipality may impose other eligibility standards and procedures, as long as they are established by ordinance.