



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 957

H.P. 712

House of Representatives, February 21, 2019

An Act To Increase the Property Tax Fairness Credit

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative INGWERSEN of Arundel.
Cosponsored by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec and
Representatives: DENK of Kennebunk, HEPLER of Woolwich, MAXMIN of Nobleboro,
McCREA of Fort Fairfield, NADEAU of Winslow, PLUECKER of Warren, TIPPING of
Orono.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5219-KK, sub-§2-A**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 474, Pt. B,
3 §16, is amended to read:

4 **2-A. Credit in 2018.** For tax years beginning ~~on or after January 1, in~~ 2018, a
5 resident individual is allowed a credit against the taxes imposed under this Part equal to
6 the amount by which the benefit base for the resident individual exceeds 6% of the
7 resident individual's income. The credit may not exceed \$750 for resident individuals
8 under 65 years of age as of the last day of the taxable year or \$1,200 for resident
9 individuals 65 years of age and older as of the last day of the taxable year. In the case of
10 married individuals filing a joint return, only one spouse is required to be 65 years of age
11 or older to qualify for the \$1,200 credit limitation. Married taxpayers filing separate
12 returns do not qualify for the credit under this section.

13 **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §5219-KK, sub-§2-B** is enacted to read:

14 **2-B. Credit in 2019 and after.** For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019,
15 a resident individual is allowed a credit against the taxes imposed under this Part equal to
16 the amount by which the benefit base for the resident individual exceeds 5% of the
17 resident individual's income. The credit may not exceed \$1,000 for resident individuals
18 under 65 years of age as of the last day of the taxable year or \$1,500 for resident
19 individuals 65 years of age and older as of the last day of the taxable year. In the case of
20 married individuals filing a joint return, only one spouse is required to be 65 years of age
21 or older to qualify for the \$1,500 credit limitation. Married taxpayers filing separate
22 returns do not qualify for the credit under this section.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill increases the maximum credit available under the property tax fairness
25 credit from \$750 to \$1,000 for resident individuals under 65 years of age and from \$1,200
26 to \$1,500 for resident individuals 65 years of age and older and decreases the threshold
27 from 6% to 5% of the resident individual's income for purposes of calculating the credit.