



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **Mark C. Cooper**

81 Chute Rd  
Windham, ME 04062  
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March 19, 2025

Testimony  
in Support of

### **LD 7 An Act to Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Residents 65 Years of Age or Older**

Dear Senator Grohoski, Rep. Cloutier and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation,

I am writing in support of **LD 7 An Act to Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Residents 65 Years of Age or Older**

This bill will provide some of the most requested help I have had requested from my constituents over the past year. Rising property taxes have become a major expense for many seniors who have owned their homes for many years, even most of their lifetime. Many unfortunately, are at the point where property taxes have reached the level where they may no longer be able to stay in their homes. Over the past 10 years it is not uncommon to hear that seniors have had their property taxes doubled, tripled, or even quadrupled. Many seniors spent their entire working career paying for and maintaining their home only to discover that now they may not be able keep their home. Retirement income and or social security increases have not kept pace with the cost of living nor have they even remotely kept up with rising property taxes.

Many seniors are now facing the choice of paying property taxes, buying food, electric bills, heating their home, paying for insurance or even health care. Maine seniors are a proud and determined group that will do almost anything to save the house they have worked their life for and has been their home for many years. There is nothing more eye opening than meeting a retired senior that had the electricity shut off so they could make their property tax payments. One retired gentleman I met this summer was currently paying \$32.00 per day in property tax on

District 107 Windham (part)



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a home he and his wife built by hand themselves in the 1970's. It is a very modest home with a garage. They have maintained everything well and take pride in "their home" only to see their modest retirement income going to paying property taxes. I would like to suggest this bill could include an upper income limit for eligibility for the increased homestead exemption.

"This bill increases the homestead property tax exemption for permanent residents of this State who are 65 years of age or older and have owned a homestead in the State for at least 10 years from \$25,000 to \$75,000 for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2025." I support LD 7.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mark C. Cooper'.

Mark C. Cooper  
State Representative