



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 811

S.P. 247

In Senate, February 14, 2019

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

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HAMPER of Oxford.

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

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

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

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

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

12 A. Require that the claimant has maintained a homestead in the municipality for a
13 certain period of time, as determined by the municipality;

14 B. Provide benefits for both owners and renters of homesteads; and

15 C. Calculate benefits in a way that provides greater benefits proportionally to
16 claimants with lower incomes in relation to their property taxes accrued or rent
17 constituting property taxes accrued.

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

20 **SUMMARY**

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

24 1. A minimum age for eligibility, as long as that age is at least 62 years; and

25 2. A minimum length of time that the claimant has maintained a homestead in the
26 municipality.

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