

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 78

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Diegnan and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Supports continued funding of homestead benefit program and homestead property tax reimbursement program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/14/2021)

1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** supporting the continued funding of the
2 homestead benefit program and the homestead property tax
3 reimbursement program.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey enacted the “Homestead Property Tax
6 Rebate Act of 1990,” which led to the creation of the homestead
7 benefit program that provides property tax relief to eligible
8 homeowners by having the benefit distributed to the
9 homeowner’s municipality in the form of a tax credit, thereby
10 reducing the homeowner’s property taxes; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Persons who are currently eligible for the homestead
12 benefit program are New Jersey residents who own and occupy a
13 home that was considered their principal residence on October 1,
14 2017, the property taxes for 2017 have already been paid in full
15 on that home, and the homeowner meets the 2017 income
16 requirements; and
17 **WHEREAS**, The State Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Act provided
18 approximately \$283 million in tax relief under the homestead
19 benefit program, with an average benefit of \$538 for seniors and
20 disabled homeowners with incomes up to \$150,000, and an
21 average benefit of \$400 for all other homeowners with incomes
22 up to \$75,000; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Beginning in 1998, New Jersey has provided a
24 homestead property tax reimbursement, colloquially referred to
25 as the “senior freeze” program, to eligible senior citizens and
26 disabled persons for property tax increases that occur after the
27 year in which they become eligible for the program; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Persons who are currently eligible for the homestead
29 property tax reimbursement program are senior citizens or
30 disabled persons receiving federal Social Security disability
31 benefit payments, who have lived in this State continuously for a
32 period of at least ten years, as either a homeowner or renter, who
33 have paid property taxes on a homestead or mobile home site
34 that was used as a principle residence, and who meet certain
35 income eligibility criteria; and
36 **WHEREAS**, The State Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Act provided
37 a total of \$219.7 million in tax relief to benefit 176,000
38 beneficiaries under the homestead property tax reimbursement
39 program; and
40 **WHEREAS**, The homestead benefit program and the homestead
41 property tax reimbursement program provide annual property tax
42 relief to approximately 680,000 hardworking New Jersey
43 residents who rely on this tax benefit to cushion the impact of
44 annual property tax increases; and
45 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper and in the interest of
46 hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents for this House to
47 support the continued funding of the homestead benefit program

1 and the homestead property tax reimbursement program; now,
2 therefore,

3

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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6 1. This House supports the continued funding of the homestead
7 benefit program and the homestead property tax reimbursement
8 program.

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10 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
11 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Governor
12 of New Jersey, the Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey, the New
13 Jersey State Treasurer, the Acting Director of the New Jersey
14 Division of Taxation, and the State President and State Director of
15 AARP New Jersey.

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18 STATEMENT

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20 This resolution supports the continued funding of the homestead
21 benefit program and the homestead property tax reimbursement
22 program.

23 New Jersey enacted the “Homestead Property Tax Rebate Act of
24 1990,” which led to the creation of the homestead benefit program
25 that provides property tax relief to eligible homeowners by having
26 the benefit distributed to the homeowner’s municipality in the form
27 of a tax credit, thereby reducing the homeowner’s property taxes.
28 Persons who are currently eligible for the homestead benefit
29 program are New Jersey residents who own and occupy a home that
30 was considered their principal residence on October 1, 2017, the
31 property taxes for 2017 have already been paid in full on that home,
32 and the homeowner meets the 2017 income requirements.

33 The State Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Act provided
34 approximately \$283 million in tax relief under the homestead
35 benefit program, with an average benefit of \$538 for seniors and
36 disabled homeowners with incomes up to \$150,000, and an average
37 benefit of \$400 for all other homeowners with incomes up to
38 \$75,000.

39 Beginning in 1998, New Jersey has provided a homestead
40 property tax reimbursement, colloquially referred to as the “senior
41 freeze” program, to eligible senior citizens and disabled persons for
42 property tax increases that occur after the year in which they
43 become eligible for the program. Persons who are currently eligible
44 for the homestead property tax reimbursement program are senior
45 citizens or disabled persons receiving federal Social Security
46 disability benefit payments, who have lived in this State
47 continuously for a period of at least ten years, as either a
48 homeowner or renter, who have paid property taxes on a homestead

1 or mobile home site that was used as a principle residence, and who
2 meet certain income eligibility criteria.

3 The State Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations Act provided a total
4 of \$219.7 million in tax relief to benefit 176,000 beneficiaries under
5 the homestead property tax reimbursement program.

6 The homestead benefit program and the homestead property tax
7 reimbursement program provide annual property tax relief to
8 approximately 680,000 hardworking New Jersey residents who rely
9 on this tax benefit to cushion the impact of annual property tax
10 increases.