

SENATE BILL NO. 72—SENATORS TITUS, AMODEI, BEERS, CARE, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, HARDY, HECK, LEE, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NOLAN, RAGGIO, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, TIFFANY, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON AND WIENER

FEBRUARY 16, 2005

Referred to Committee on Human Resources and Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions concerning refunds of property taxes paid by certain senior citizens. (BDR 38-282)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to senior citizens; increasing the maximum amount of a refund of property taxes available to a senior citizen; increasing the assessed value of the home and the amount of liquid assets of a senior citizen for determining eligibility for a refund of a certain amount of property taxes paid by that senior citizen; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law provides that a senior citizen whose household income is not more than \$24,016 is entitled to a refund of a certain amount of property taxes if the senior citizen meets certain qualifications. (NRS 427A.515, 427A.520) For a homeowner, the refund must not exceed the amount of the accrued property tax or \$500, whichever is less. (NRS 427A.515) Two of the qualifications for such a refund are that the home of the senior citizen must not have an assessed value of more than \$87,500 and that the liquid assets of the senior citizen must not be more than \$150,000. (NRS 427A.540)

This bill revises the provisions concerning such a refund by increasing the maximum amount of the refund to the amount of the accrued property tax or \$1,000, whichever is less. This bill also increases the maximum assessed value of the home of a senior citizen to \$120,000 and increases the maximum amount of liquid assets of a senior citizen to \$205,000 for the senior citizen to qualify for such a refund.



THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 427A.515 is hereby amended to read as follows:

427A.515 1. A senior citizen whose home is placed upon the secured or unsecured tax roll, who has owned the home and maintained it as his primary residence since July 1 immediately preceding the filing of his claim and whose household income is not more than \$24,016, as adjusted pursuant to subsection 3, is entitled to a refund of the property tax accrued against his home, except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, as follows:

(a) If the amount of the applicant's household income is at or below the federally designated level signifying poverty for a family unit of one or two, the applicant is entitled to a refund of 100 percent of the property taxes accrued.

(b) If the amount of the applicant's household income is above the federally designated level signifying poverty for a family unit of one or two, the applicant is entitled to a refund of a percentage of the property taxes accrued based on a graduated schedule adopted by the Division.

2. The amount of the refund must not exceed the amount of the accrued property tax or ~~\$500;~~ **\$1,000**, whichever is less.

3. The maximum allowable income to qualify for a refund set forth in subsection 1 must be adjusted for each fiscal year by adding to \$24,016 the product of \$24,016 multiplied by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index from December 2002 to the November preceding the fiscal year for which the adjustment is calculated.

Sec. 2. NRS 427A.540 is hereby amended to read as follows:

427A.540 No claim may be accepted by the Division if the:

1. Claimant or spouse of the claimant owns real property, other than that claimed as a home, which has an assessed value of more than \$30,000;

2. Home of the claimant has an assessed value of more than ~~[\$87,500;]~~ **\$120,000;** or

3. Liquid assets of the claimant are more than ~~[\$150,000;]~~ **\$205,000.**

Sec. 3. The amendatory provisions of this act apply to claims for assistance filed pursuant to NRS 427A.450 to 427A.600, inclusive, on or after January 1, 2006.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2005.

