

I am writing in support of HB 1335 and ask that you consider lowering the age of eligibility for the homestead credit for Seniors and increasing the current earnings limit that allows seniors to be eligible for this credit.

The current credit allows for seniors 65 years of age and older to apply for a reduction of their property taxes and I do believe this is a well-deserved credit for seniors, who having paid property taxes for most of their adult lives, deserve a break on their property taxes, especially in light of many seniors living on a fixed income. However, I believe choosing the age of 65 for this credit is arbitrary and ask that you consider changing the age of eligibility for this credit from 65 to 62 as many seniors are retiring earlier and therefore should be eligible for this credit as well and lowering the age for this credit may in fact allow some seniors to retire earlier as property taxes are a significant financial burden on seniors.

Also, the current earnings limit to qualify for this credit is frankly too low to allow most seniors to take advantage of this property tax reduction credit and therefore I would ask that you support this bill and raise the earnings limit to allow a greater number of senior citizens to take full advantage of this credit.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you support the changes to the Homestead credit that this bill proposes.

Jeff Haney