

Changes regarding LD 290 Property Tax Stabilization for Seniors

Yes, LD 290 Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens program, enacted just a year ago, has been repealed by the Maine Legislature on July 6, 2023. This program was intended to freeze taxes of the applicant's primary residence at the previous year's level for qualifying senior citizens. It did require an application every year. The available information implied that the next application would be due in August of this year.

For those of you who did apply and were approved for the current year, this program remains in place for the current tax year. This means that your tax amount on the 2023-2024 tax bill will be the same as on your 2022-2023 tax bill.

Secondly, the stabilization program has been **replaced** with an expanded Property Tax Fairness Credit (PTFC) and an expanded Property Tax Deferral program. It is the legislature's belief that many more taxpayers will now qualify for the expanded programs and get a greater benefit. More information can be found at Maine.gov.

Please note that these changes are the result of laws created and enacted by legislature. While the Town of China administered the stabilization program, we had no part in its creation or repeal. Any questions or concerns should be directed to your legislative representative. China is represented by Matthew G. Pouliot.

The two existing State programs benefiting low-income seniors that have been expanded are:

1. **The Property Tax Fairness Credit**, which currently allows eligible Mainers to take a \$1,500 credit, has increased to \$2,000; it also loosens limits on the program in a way that allows the benefits to remain constant for a Mainer whose spouse passes away. Note: This program is not administered by the Town of China. To claim the credit, you must file Form 1040ME and Schedule PTFC/STFC for the tax year during which the property tax or rent was paid. This program will be administered through the Income Tax Division. For assistance, call 207-624-9784 or visit [Property Tax Fairness Credit Summary](#) at Maine.gov.
2. **The State Property Tax Deferral Program**, which is a lifeline loan program that covers the annual property taxes of Maine seniors who are age 65 and older, who cannot afford to pay them on their own. This program has been expanded doubling the income limit to \$80,000 and raises asset limits. Taxes covered by this program must be paid back when the subject property is sold or becomes part of an estate. This program is also not administered by the Town of China. For assistance, contact Maine Revenue Services, Property Tax Division at 207-624-5600 or prop.tax@maine.gov. For more information visit [State Property Tax Deferral Program](#) at Maine.gov.