REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TASK FORCE BILL DRAFT

Replace bill title with following:

"An Act To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force"

Sec. 1. Amend section 5 of Resolve 2025, c. 108 *as follows:*

Sec. 5. Meetings; subcommittees. Resolved: That the task force shall meet ~~at least 4 times but no more than 8~~ 6 times in 2025 and no more than 8 times in 2026, not including any subcommittee meetings.

1. The task force shall meet at least once jointly with the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation at a time to be determined by the chairs of the task force and the committee.

2. The chairs of the task force may appoint subcommittees as necessary for the efficient operation of the task force.

Sec. X. 36 MRSA §5219-KK is enacted to read:

XX. Credit in 2027 and after. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, a resident individual is allowed a credit against the taxes imposed under this Part equal to the amount by which the benefit base for the resident individual exceeds 4% of the resident individual's income. The credit may not exceed $1,500 for resident individuals under 65 years of age as of the last day of the taxable year or, for tax years beginning before January 1, 2024, $1,500 for resident individuals 65 years of age and older as of the last day of the taxable year. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, for resident individuals 65 years of age and older, the credit may not exceed $2,000. In the case of married individuals filing a joint return, only one spouse is required to be 65 years of age or older to qualify for the $1,500 or $2,000 credit limitation. Married taxpayers filing separate returns do not qualify for the credit under this section.

Sec. X. Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Maine Revenue Services, to convene working group to study Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. Resolved: That the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services, convene a working group to study the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law established in Title 36, chapter 105, subchapter 2-A, referred to in this section as "the program." In studying the program, the working group shall review the program design and utilization to determine whether the program is meeting the goals stated in Title 36, section 572, of the Maine Revised Statutes. The working group shall also study issues faced by municipalities and assessors in administering and enforcing the program.

Maine Revenue Services shall invite individuals that represent the interests of, including, but not limited to: foresters, assessors, municipal officials and the Maine Forest Service.

The working group shall submit its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, no later than October 1, 2026, to the Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force, established in Resolve 2025, chapter 108, and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation in 2027.

SUMMARY

This amendment amends Resolve 2025, chapter 108, which established the Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force, to allow the task force to meet 8 times in 2026. The amendment increases from $1,000 to $1,500 the property fairness tax credit for individuals younger than 65 years of age. The amendment also requires the Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services, to convene a working group to study the Maine Tree Growth Tax Program.

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