

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1313

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*As Reported By House Committee on:  
Revenue*

**Title:** An act relating to senior citizen property tax relief.

**Brief Description:** Modifying qualifications for senior citizen property tax relief.

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Fraser, Brumsickle, Phillips, Jones and Scott.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Revenue, January 29, 1991, DPS.

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**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
REVENUE**

**Majority Report:** *That Substitute House Bill No. 1313 be substituted therefore, and the substitute bill do pass.* Signed by 14 members: Representatives Wang, Chair; Fraser, Vice Chair; Holland, Ranking Minority Member; Wynne, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appelwick; Brumsickle; Day; Leonard; Morris; Morton; Phillips; Rust; Silver; and Van Luven.

**Staff:** Rick Peterson (786-7150).

**Background:** Qualifying senior citizens and retired disabled persons are entitled to a property tax exemption on their principal residence. To qualify a person must be 61 on January 1st of the application year, or retired from employment because of a physical disability. In addition, the disposable income of the applicant's household must fall below \$18,000 a year.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** The age for qualification in the senior citizen property tax exemption program is reduced by one year. A person may qualify if they are 61 years old by December 31st of the year of application.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** Original bill allowed capital gain realized on the sale of a residence not to be added to the applicant's disposable income if the gain was transferred to a new principal residence.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested January 24, 1991.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** Effective for taxes levied for collection in 1992.

**Testimony For:** Seniors should be able to apply in time to receive tax relief when they are 62 years old, anytime during the year.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** Ann Clifton, Thurston County Assessor (in favor).