
Finance Committee

SB 6338

Brief Description: Regarding the property tax exemption for seniors and for persons retired due to disability.

Sponsors: Senators Haugen, Oke, Berkey, Swecker, Eide, Mulliken, Spanel, Kline, Rasmussen, McAuliffe, Shin and Fairley.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Increases from one acre to five acres the land eligible for relief under the property tax relief program for senior citizens and persons retired due to disability.

Hearing Date: 2/20/06

Staff: Rick Peterson (786-7150).

Background:

Some senior citizens and persons retired due to disability are entitled to property tax relief on their principal residences and up to 1 acre of their homesite. To qualify, a person must be 61 in the year of application or retired from employment because of a physical disability, own his or her principal residence, and have a disposable income of less than \$35,000 a year. Persons meeting these criteria are entitled to partial property tax exemptions and a valuation freeze.

Senior citizens and persons retired due to disability persons of age 60 with incomes less than \$40,000 may defer property taxes. The property tax deferral program includes the 1 acre homesite plus up to 5 acres if the additional land is required under land use regulations.

Summary of Bill:

The one-acre limitation on residential property eligible for the senior citizen property tax exemption program is increased to five acres of land if zoning requires this larger parcel size. The bill applies to taxes levied for collection in 2007 and thereafter.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.