



MAINE TAX ALERT

A Publication of Maine Revenue Services (“MRS”) for Tax Professionals

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New Property Tax Law for Homesteads of Senior Residents

During the most recent session, the Legislature passed L.D. 290 - “An Act To Stabilize Property Taxes for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older Who Own a Homestead for at Least 10 Years.” This new law allows certain senior residents to stabilize, or freeze, the property taxes on their homestead. An applicant must be at least 65 years old, a permanent resident of the State, and must have owned a Maine homestead for at least ten years. As long as the individual files an application each year, the tax on their homestead is fixed at the amount assessed in the year prior to the initial application. Eligible residents may transfer the fixed tax amount to a new homestead, even between municipalities. The State will fully reimburse municipalities for lost revenue. The law goes into effect on August 8, 2022, and applies to property tax years beginning April 1, 2023.

Interested taxpayers will need to apply with the municipality where their homestead is located on or before December 1. Maine Revenue Services is currently drafting forms and instructions, along with guidance for applicants and municipalities, which will be released in advance of the law’s effective date in August. The text of the new law is available on the Maine Legislature’s website: legislature.maine.gov/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0126&item=5&snum=130. For additional questions, please contact the Property Tax Division at (207) 624-5600 or prop.tax@maine.gov.

MRS Rulemaking Activity

Proposed Rule

Rule 211 (Regular Rulemaking), “Deferred Collection of Homestead Property Taxes.” Effective May 9, 2022, MRS adopted Rule 211 as an emergency rule to explain the documentation for the disability qualification portion of the Deferred Collection of Homestead Property Taxes Program, recently enacted under 36 M.R.S. §§ 6250-6266. MRS is now proposing to adopt this same rule through the regular rulemaking process.

Proposed rules are available on MRS’s website, at www.maine.gov/revenue/publications/rules, under “Current MRS Rulemaking Activity.” Comments on the proposed adoption of Rule 211 are due by July 30, 2022, and must be directed to Alex Weber, General Counsel, either by email at alexander.j.weber@maine.gov or by mail at P.O. Box 1060, Augusta, ME 04332-1060.

Careers and Internships at MRS

MRS' mission is to fairly and efficiently administer the State's tax laws with integrity and professionalism.

MRS is looking for smart, motivated, and team oriented people to join our team. Benefits include:

- Qualifying employer for federal student loan forgiveness
- Tuition reimbursement for continuing education (including CPA exam)
- Public service
- Competitive salary
- MainePERS retirement plan and deferred compensation
- Generous insurance and paid leave (including all state holidays)
- Flexible spending accounts and longevity pay
- Gym membership reimbursement

Regularly posted, full-time positions at MRS include the Tax Examiner and Revenue Agent positions. Click the following link for more information about these positions:

<https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/bhrssalary/jobs.pl>.

Click the following link for more information about careers and paid internships and to sign up to receive notifications of new MRS job openings: www.maine.gov/revenue/careers.

Fraud Alert

If you believe you are a victim of identity theft or that a breach of personally identifiable information has occurred, contact MRS at (207) 624-7658 or email fraudalert.mrs@maine.gov as soon as possible. Timely notification assists MRS in preventing fraudulent tax refunds.

| <u>Department</u> | <u>Telephone Numbers</u> | <u>FAX Numbers</u> | <u>E-mail Addresses</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Taxpayer Contact Center | (207) 624-9784 | (207) 287-6975 | taxpayerassist@maine.gov |
| Central Registration | (207) 624-9784 | (207) 287-6975 | taxpayerassist@maine.gov |
| Collections & Compliance | (207) 624-9595 | (207) 287-6627 | compliance.tax@maine.gov |
| Corporate Tax | (207) 624-9670 | (207) 624-9694 | corporate.tax@maine.gov |
| E-file Help Desk (1040 ONLY) | (207) 624-9730 | (207) 287-6628 | efile.helpdesk@maine.gov |
| Electronic Funds Transfer | (207) 624-5625 | (207) 287-3618 | efunds.transfer@maine.gov |
| Estate & Fiduciary Tax | (207) 626-8480 | (207) 624-9694 | estatetax@maine.gov |
| Fuel & Special Taxes | (207) 624-9609 | (207) 287-6628 | fuel.tax@maine.gov |
| Forms Request Line | (207) 624-7894 | | |
| Individual Income Tax Assistance | (207) 626-8475 | (207) 624-9694 | income.tax@maine.gov |
| Insurance Premium Tax | (207) 624-9753 | (207) 624-9694 | |
| NexTalk (TTY Service) | (888) 577-6690 | | |
| Payment Plan/Income Tax | (207) 621-4300 | (207) 621-4328 | compliance.tax@maine.gov |
| Payment Plan/Other | (207) 624-9595 | (207) 287-6627 | compliance.tax@maine.gov |
| Practitioners' Hotline | (207) 626-8458 | (207) 624-9694 | |
| Property Tax | (207) 624-5600 | (207) 287-6396 | prop.tax@maine.gov |
| Public Communications | (207) 626-8478 | (207) 624-9694 | |
| Sales Tax | (207) 624-9693 | (207) 287-6628 | sales.tax@maine.gov |
| Tax Clearance Letters | (207) 624-9595 | (207) 287-6627 | |
| Office of Tax Policy | (207) 624-9677 | (207) 287-3618 | |
| Taxpayer Advocate | (207) 624-9649 | (207) 287-3618 | taxpayer.advocate@maine.gov |
| Withholding Tax | (207) 626-8475 | (207) 624-9694 | withholding.tax@maine.gov |
| Tax Violations Hot Line | (207) 624-9600 | | |

This publication is designed to keep taxpayers, tax practitioners and the general public informed of developments, problems, questions and matters of general interest concerning Maine tax law, policy, and procedure. The articles in this newsletter are not designed to address complex issues in detail, and they are not a substitute for Maine tax laws and/or regulations.

Suggestions for the Tax Alert?

Please contact:

Maine Revenue Services

PO Box 1060

Augusta, Maine 04332-1060