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SENATE BILL 6477

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Hobbs, Pridemore, Roach, Rasmussen, Hatfield, Stevens, Berkey, Eide, Sheldon, Honeyford, Shin, Keiser, Hewitt, Kline, McAuliffe, Zarelli, Benton, and Kilmer

Read first time 01/17/08. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing state assistance to low-income  
2 homeowners; adding a new section to chapter 82.32 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; and making an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The intent of this act is to provide  
6 assistance to low-income homeowners with the burden of property taxes.  
7 Property taxes can be a barrier to homeownership, especially to the  
8 low-income segment of our society. This act will help these  
9 individuals enter into homeownership.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 82.32 RCW  
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) The definitions in RCW 84.36.383 apply to this section.

13 (2) A person may receive state assistance in the form of a payment  
14 that is based on the amount of excess and regular real property taxes  
15 levied for collection in 2008, in accordance with the following:

16 (a) The property taxes must have been imposed upon a residence that  
17 was occupied by the person claiming the assistance as a principal place  
18 of residence as of January 1, 2008.

1 (b) The person claiming the assistance must have owned, at the time  
2 of filing, in fee, as a life estate, or by contract purchase, the  
3 residence on which the property taxes have been imposed or if the  
4 person claiming the assistance lives in a cooperative housing  
5 association, corporation, or partnership, such person must own a share  
6 representing the unit or portion of the structure in which he or she  
7 resides. For purposes of this subsection, a residence owned by a  
8 marital community or owned by cotenants shall be deemed to be owned by  
9 each spouse or cotenant, and any lease for life shall be deemed a life  
10 estate.

11 (c) The person must have a combined disposable income, as defined  
12 in RCW 84.36.383, which is less than the statewide median income as  
13 calculated for calendar year 2007.

14 (d) The amount of assistance is equal to ten percent of the amount  
15 of excess and regular real property taxes levied for collection in  
16 2008.

17 (e) The person claiming the assistance must file a claim with the  
18 department in a form and manner prescribed by the department prior to  
19 September 1, 2008.

20 (3) If the department determines a claim for assistance is valid,  
21 the department shall pay the claim only from moneys appropriated for  
22 purposes of this section.

23 (4) A person signing a false claim with the intent to defraud or  
24 obtain a payment in excess of the amount to which the person is  
25 entitled is guilty of the offense of perjury under chapter 9.72 RCW.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of one hundred seventy million  
27 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for  
28 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the  
29 department of revenue for the purpose of paying claims under section 2  
30 of this act.

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