

Senior Homeowners & Renters!

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR CASH or CREDIT FROM THE STATE IF YOU PAY RENT OR PROPERTY TAXES

The Massachusetts "CIRCUIT BREAKER" TAX PROGRAM is for persons 65 or over whose property taxes (or 25% of rent) exceed 10% of their annual income and who meet other qualifying criteria.

If you meet certain requirements, you may be eligible for the refundable tax credit or "Circuit Breaker" now and for the past **three years** - even if you did not file Massachusetts state income tax forms. You may file for the 2006 tax year beginning in January 2007 and may file retroactively for the last 3 years beginning now*. **The maximum credit you may receive for tax year 2006 is \$870; for 2005 is \$840; for 2004 is \$820; for 2003 is \$810.**

Seniors must meet the following guidelines to qualify for the refund or credit

1. Age 65 or over by the end of the tax year for which you are filing
2. Income: includes Social Security, with some exceptions i.e. blindness; and non-taxable income, i.e. non-taxable pensions

<u>Income for tax year:</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Single	43,000	44,000	45,000	46,000
Head of household	54,000	55,000	56,000	58,000
Married, filing jointly	64,000	66,000	67,000	70,000
3. Residency: Own or rent residential property in Massachusetts (primary residence)
Subsidized renters are not eligible.
4. Assessed valuation of home (must not be greater than)
For tax year: 2003 - \$432,000 2004 - \$441,000 2005 - \$600,000 2006 - \$684,000
5. 10% rule: For Owners: Amount by which property tax (plus 50% of water and sewer fees when not covered in property tax bill) exceeds 10% of income, up to the maximum.
For Renters: Amount by which 25% of annual rental payments exceeds 10% of total income, up to the maximum. *The law assumes that 25% of rent goes toward property tax.*

Even if you don't normally file with the state, if you meet the above criteria you are most likely due a "refund" check/tax credit from the Dept. of Revenue. *If you have an accountant, ask him/her for help with this year and /or previous years. *Deadline for 2003 filing is April 15, 2007.* For more information or assistance filing, call the _____ Council on Aging at _____.

Call the MA Department of Revenue for more information and/or forms for the past 3 years. Mass. Dept. of Revenue – Customer Service: 1-617-887-6367 or online at www.dor.state.ma.us/help/guides/abate_amend/personal/issues/realestate.htm.