

March 19, 2025

Chair Nathanson
Vice-Chair Reschke
Vice-Chair Walters
Members of the House Committee on Revenue

I am writing to oppose HB 3755.

HB 3755 would provide property tax relief to senior citizens who are over the age of 65 and own their residences.

My wife and I own our own home and are in our 70s. We might qualify for this is a generous benefit in the future.

Why would I be opposed?

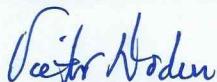
First, it is unfair to other senior citizens. Not every senior citizen owns their own home. Many rent. A portion of their rent goes toward paying the landlord's property tax bill as cost of doing business. Senior citizens who rent would receive no benefit.

Second, I value the services that local governments provide: police and fire protection, libraries, mental health and homeless services, parks, schools, etc. Property taxes are the mainstay of local government finance. Without revenue from the taxes on seniors' homes, these services would be reduced. And, while Legislature might backfill the money for schools, the backfill would likely add fuel to the contentious discussion about the increase for basic school support.

Third, HB 3755's property tax relief for seniors is unfair to other taxpayers. Local improvements are often financed by voter-approved bond levies. The levies to repay the bonds will be higher because many homes owned by seniors would be partially or totally exempt from paying property taxes.

If the legislature wishes to provide property tax relief to senior citizens, then the legislature should provide that relief from its own much more robust revenue streams. The legislature should not reduce local government revenues.

Please reject HB 3755 in its current form.



Victor Dodier