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1		HOUSE BILL NO. 231
2	INTRODUCE	D BY L. JONES, B. LER, S. ESSMANN, R. MINER, W. MCKAMEY, D. FERN, J. KASSMIER, M.
3	BERTO	OGLIO, C. SPRUNGER, S. MORIGEAU, G. HUNTER, C. COCHRAN, S. FITZPATRICK, M.
4	NIKOLAKAK	OS, G. HERTZ, C. SCHOMER, E. TILLEMAN, R. TEMPEL, J. DARLING, G. PARRY, K. WALSH,
5	G. I	NIKOLAKAKOS, B. BARKER, M. CUFFE, T. MCGILLVRAY, B. GILLESPIE, D. BEDEY
6		
7	A BILL FOR A	N ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING PROPERTY TAX LAWS; PROVIDING
8	FOR A PROP	ERTY TAX REBATE ON A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE BASED ON A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF
9	PROPERTY T	AXES PAID FOR TAX YEAR 2024; TEMPORARILY REDUCING CLASS FOUR RESIDENTIAL
10	PROPERTY T	AX RATES; REVISING TAX RATES FOR CERTAIN CLASS FOUR RESIDENTIAL AND
11	COMMERCIA	L PROPERTY; PROVIDING A LOWER TAX RATE FOR CERTAIN OWNER-OCCUPIED
12	RESIDENTIAL	PROPERTY AND LONG-TERM RENTALS; PROVIDING A LOWER TAX RATE FOR A
13	PORTION OF	COMMERCIAL PROPERTY VALUE; PROVIDING ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION
14	REQUIREME	NTS; PROVIDING FOR AN APPEAL PROCESS; PROVIDING FOR THE ADJUSTMENT OF
15	CERTAIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FIXED MILL LEVIES; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING	
16	RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS <u>15-1-121</u> , 15-6-134, 15-7-102, 15-15-101, 15-15-102,	
17	15-15-103, 15-16-101, AND AND 15-17-125 , AND 15-30-2120, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE	
18	EFFECTIVE E	DATE DATES, APPLICABILITY DATES, AND A-TERMINATION DATE DATES."
19		
20	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:	
21		
22	NEW	SECTION. Section 1. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 7 6] and 15-6-134, the
23	following defin	itions apply:
24	(1)	"Homestead reduced tax rate" means the tax rate provided for in 15-6-134(3)(b)(i).
25	(2)	"Long-term rental" means class four residential property:
26	(a)	that is a single-family dwelling unit, unit of a multiple-unit dwelling, trailer, manufactured home,
27	or mobile hom	e and the parcel on which the long-term rental improvements are located but not including any



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1	contiguous or adjacent parcels;	
2	(b)	that an owner can demonstrate was <u>:</u>
3	<u>(I)</u>	rented for periods of 28 days or more for at least 9 7 months in each tax year for which the
4	rental property	reduced tax rate is claimed; OR
5	<u>(II)</u>	VACANT FOR NOT MORE THAN 5 MONTHS TO COMPLETE DOCUMENTED PROPERTY REPAIRS;
6	(c)	that is occupied by tenants who use the dwelling as a residence during the year in which the
7	reduced tax ra	ate is claimed; and
8	(d)	for which the owner is current on payment of the assessed Montana property taxes when
9	claiming the re	educed tax rate.
10	(3)	"Owner" includes a purchaser under contract for deed as defined in 70-20-115, a grantor of a
11	trust indenture	e as defined in 71-1-303, and the trustee of a grantor trust that is revocable as defined in 72-38-
12	103.	
13	(4)	(a) "Principal residence" means class four residential property:
14	(i)	that is a single-family dwelling unit, unit of a multiple-unit dwelling, trailer, manufactured home,
15	or mobile hom	e and the parcel on which the principal residence improvements are located but not including an
16	contiguous or	adjacent parcels;
17	(ii)	in which an owner can demonstrate the owner owned and lived for at least 7 months of the
18	year for which	the homestead reduced tax rate for a principal residence is claimed;
19	(iii)	that is the only residence for which the owner claims the homestead reduced tax rate for that
20	year; and	
21	(iv)	for which the owner made payment of the assessed Montana property taxes.
22	(b)	An owner who cannot meet the requirements of subsection (4)(a)(ii) because the owner's
23	principal resid	ence changed during the tax year to another principal residence may still qualify for the
24	homestead red	duced tax rate if the owner paid the Montana property taxes while residing in each principal
25	residence for a	a total of at least 7 consecutive months for each tax year.
26	(5)	"Rental property reduced tax rate" means the tax rate provided for in 15-6-134(3)(b)(i) and (ii).
27	(6)	"Tax year 2025" means the period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.



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1	(7)(6) "Tax year-2026 2027" means the period from January 1,-2026 2027, through December 31,
2	2026 <u>2027</u> .
3	(8) "Tax year 2027" means the period from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027.
4	
5	NEW SECTION. Section 2. Homestead reduced tax rate transition period automatic
6	qualification application for other property. (1) For tax year 2025 and tax year 2026, a class four
7	residential property that is a principal residence automatically qualifies for the homestead reduced tax rate
8	provided for in 15-6-134(3)(b) if:
9	(a) the owner claimed and received a property tax rebate for tax year 2023 pursuant to Chapter
10	47, Laws of 2023;
11	(b) the property did not change ownership after July 31, 2023; and
12	(c) the property remains the principal residence of the owner.
13	(2) The department shall maintain a website for property owners to verify if their property
14	automatically qualifies for the homestead reduced tax rate for a principal residence described in subsection (1).
15	(3) The automatic qualification for the homestead reduced tax rate for a principal residence expire
16	s after tax year 2026. Beginning in tax year 2027, the owner of a class four residential property that wishes to
17	continue to receive the homestead reduced tax rate for a principal residence, regardless of whether the owner
18	applied for and received a lower tax rate as provided in subsection (4), shall apply to the department as
19	provided in [section 3].
20	(4) The owner of a class four residential property that do es not meet the requirements for
21	automatic qualification in subsection (1) for the homestead reduced tax rate for a principal residence but that
22	would otherwise qualify under [section 3] may apply for a temporary homestead reduced tax rate for a
23	principal residence as provided in [section 3] that is applicable to tax years 2025 and 2026.
24	(5) An application for qualifying property under subsection (4) must be made by March 1, 2025, to
25	qualify for a reduced tax rate in tax years 2025 and 2026 and by March 1, 2026, to qualify for a reduced tax rate
26	in tax year 2026. If a temporary homestead reduced tax rate is granted under subsection (4), it remains
27	effective through the end of tax year 2026.



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1 For tax year 2025 and tax year 2026, a class four residential property that qualified for the 2 property tax assistance program provided for in 15-6-305 or the disabled veteran program provided for in 15-6-3 311 in tax year 2024 automatically qualifies for the homestead reduced tax rate if the property remains the 4 principal residence of the owner. 5 6 NEW SECTION, Section 2. Homestead reduced tax rate -- application -- limitations. (1) Except as provided in 15-6-134(3)(b)(iii), there THERE is a homestead reduced tax rate provided for in 15-6-134(3)(b)(i) 7 8 for a principal residence as provided in this section. 9 (a) Beginning in tax year 2027 2026 2027, the owner of a principal residence may apply to the (2) 10 department to receive the homestead reduced tax rate. THE OWNER OF A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE WHO APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED THE REBATE PROVIDED FOR IN SECTIONS 9 THROUGH 111 FOR TAX YEAR 2024 AUTOMATICALLY 11 12 QUALIFIES FOR THE HOMESTEAD REDUCED TAX RATE UNLESS SUBSECTIONS (2)(C)(I) THROUGH (2)(C)(III) APPLY TO THE PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE FOR WHICH THE REBATE WAS CLAIMED. THE OWNER OF A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE WHO DID NOT 13 RECEIVE A REBATE UNDER [SECTIONS 9 THROUGH 11], SHALL APPLY AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION TO RECEIVE THE 14 15 HOMESTEAD REDUCED TAX RATE IN TAX YEAR 2026 2027. 16 To receive the homestead reduced tax rate for the tax year in which the application is first (b) made, the owner shall apply electronically THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE or by mail on a form prescribed 17 18 by the department and postmarked by BETWEEN DECEMBER 1 OF THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR AND March 1. 19 APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY MAIL MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 1. Approved applications received 20 electronically or postmarked after March 1 apply to the following tax year. 21 Once approved, the homestead reduced tax rate remains effective until the end of the tax year (c) 22 in which any of the following events occur: 23 (i) there is a change in ownership of the property; 24 (ii) the owner no longer uses the dwelling as a principal residence; or



(iii)

(d)

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remaining property taxes due for the year in which the homestead reduced tax rate is terminated must be

the owner applies for a homestead reduced tax rate for a different principal residence.

If a homestead reduced tax rate is terminated pursuant to subsection (2)(c) or [section 5 4], any

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1	based on the tax rate in effect on January 1 of the year in which the homestead reduced tax rate was	
2	terminated.	
3	(e)	An application for a homestead reduced tax rate must be submitted on a form prescribed by the
4	department ar	nd must contain:
5	(i)	a written declaration made under penalty of perjury that the applicant owns and maintains the
6	land and impr	ovements as the principal residence as defined in [section 1]. The application must state the
7	penalty provid	led for in [section 4].
8	(ii)	the geocode or other property identifier of the principal residence for which the applicant is
9	requesting the	e homestead reduced tax rate;
10	(iii)	the social security number of the applicant; and
11	(iv)	any other information required by the department that is relevant to the applicant's eligibility.
12	(3)	(a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), class four residential property owned by an entity is
13	not eligible to	receive the homestead reduced tax rate.
14	(b)	The trustee of a grantor revocable trust may apply for a homestead reduced tax rate for a
15	principal resid	ence on behalf of the trust if the dwelling meets the definition of a principal residence for the
16	grantor.	
17	<u>(c)</u>	CLASS FOUR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED ON FEE LAND WITHIN THE EXTERIOR BOUNDARIES OF
18	AN INDIAN RES	ERVATION WITHIN THIS STATE IS AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR THE HOMESTEAD REDUCED TAX RATE
19	PROVIDED FOR	IN THIS SECTION AND IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2).
20	(4)	The department shall notify the owner if the homestead reduced tax rate is applied to the
21	property or if t	he application was denied.
22		
23	NEW	SECTION. Section 3. Rental property reduced tax rate application limitations. (1)
24	There is a ren	tal property reduced tax rate provided for in 15-6-134(3)(b) for a long-term rental as provided in
25	this section.	
26	(2)	(a) The BEGINNING IN TAX YEAR 2026 2027, THE owner of a long-term rental may apply to the
27	department to	receive the rental property reduced tax rate. The application must be made by an individual



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1 owner or, for an entity owner, by an authorized representative of the entity.

- 2 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAIL A NOTICE TO POTENTIAL CLAIMANTS BY OCTOBER 30, 2025 2026, FOR

 3 TAX YEAR 2026 2027. RECEIPT OF A NOTICE DOES NOT ESTABLISH THAT A TAXPAYER OR PROPERTY OWNER IS ELIGIBLE

 4 TO RECEIVE THE RENTAL PROPERTY REDUCED TAX RATE, AND A TAXPAYER WHO DOES NOT RECEIVE A NOTICE MAY STILL

 5 BE ELIGIBLE TO CLAIM THE RENTAL PROPERTY REDUCED TAX RATE. ALL TAXPAYERS, REGARDLESS OF THE RECEIPT OF

 NOTICE, SHALL APPLY FOR A REDUCED RATE AS PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2).
 - (b)(c) To receive the rental property reduced tax rate for the tax year in which the application is first made, the owner or authorized representative shall apply electronically THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE or by mail on a form prescribed by the department and postmarked by BETWEEN DECEMBER 1 OF THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR AND March 1. Approved applications APPLICATIONS received electronically or postmarked after March 1 apply to the following tax year.
 - (c)(D) Once approved, the rental property reduced tax rate remains effective until the end of the tax year in which any of the following events occur:
 - (i) there is a change in ownership of the property;
- 15 (ii) the property is no longer rented to tenants as a dwelling;
- 16 (iii) the terms of the lease change and the property no longer qualifies as a long-term rental as
 17 defined in [section 1]; and OR
- 18 (iv) the owner fails to submit a complete-reapplication to the department as required in subsection 19 (4).
 - (d)(E) If a rental property reduced tax rate is terminated pursuant to subsection $\frac{(2)(e)}{(2)(D)}$ or [section 5 4], any remaining property taxes due for the year in which the rental property reduced tax rate is terminated must be based on the tax rate in effect on January 1 of the year in which the rental property reduced tax rate was terminated.
 - (3) An application for a rental property reduced tax rate must be submitted on a form prescribed by the department and must contain:
- 26 (a) a written declaration made under penalty of perjury that the applicant owns and maintains the 27 land and improvements as a long-term rental as defined in [section 1]. The application must state the penalty



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- 1 provided for in [section 4].
 - (b) the geocode or other property identifier for the long-term rental for which the applicant is requesting the rental property reduced tax rate;
 - (c) the social security number or taxpayer identification number of the applicant;
- 5 (d) the income and expense information for the long-term rental for the immediately preceding 6 year, including the amount of rent charged each month; and
 - (e) any other information required by the department that is relevant to the applicant's eligibility.
 - (4) To continue receiving the rental property reduced tax rate, the owner of a qualifying long-term rental shall reapply annually as provided in subsection (3) AS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT. BEGINNING IN 2028

 2029, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE REAPPLICATION OF 20% OF LONG-TERM RENTALS EACH YEAR.
 - (5) Periods of short-term vacancy not exceeding 3 5 months in a 12-month period do not disqualify a long-term rental from receiving the rental property reduced tax rate.
 - (6) The department shall notify the owner if the rental property reduced tax rate is applied to the property or if the application was denied.

NEW SECTION. Section 4. Homestead and rental property reduced tax rates -- improper approval -- penalty for false or fraudulent application. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if the department determines that an application for a homestead reduced tax rate or a rental property reduced tax rate was improperly approved OR THAT THE PROPERTY NO LONGER QUALIFIES FOR THE REDUCED RATE, the department shall revise the assessment for each year the homestead reduced tax rate or the rental property reduced tax rate was improperly granted subject to the assessment revision procedure established in 15-8-601.

- (2) (a) A person who files a false or fraudulent application for a homestead reduced tax rate provided for in [section 2 or 3] or for a rental property reduced tax rate provided for in [section 4 3] is subject to criminal prosecution under the provisions of 45-7-202.
- (3) (a) If a person is determined to have filed a false or fraudulent application, the department shall revise the assessment of the property subject to the assessment revision procedure established in this section and 15-8-601 and assess a penalty as provided in this subsection (3). The penalty is equal to three times the



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2	NEW SECTION. Section 9. Definitions. As used in [sections 9 through 11], the following
3	DEFINITIONS APPLY:
4	(1) "MONTANA PROPERTY TAXES" MEANS THE AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAXES, SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS,
5	AND OTHER FEES IMPOSED ON PROPERTY CLASSIFIED UNDER 15-6-134 THAT IS A SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING UNIT, UNIT
6	OF A MULTIPLE-UNIT DWELLING, TRAILER, MANUFACTURED HOME, OR MOBILE HOME AND AS MUCH OF THE SURROUNDING
7	LAND, NOT EXCEEDING 1 ACRE, AS IS REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR ITS USE AS A DWELLING AND THAT WERE ASSESSED
8	AND PAID BY THE TAXPAYER FOR TAX YEAR 2024. THE AMOUNT OF MONTANA PROPERTY TAXES ASSESSED AND PAID IS
9	EQUAL TO THE TOTAL AMOUNT BILLED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE DWELLING AS SHOWN ON THE 2024
10	PROPERTY TAX BILL RECEIVED BY THE TAXPAYER WITH A FIRST-HALF PAYMENT DUE IN OR AROUND NOVEMBER 2024 AND
11	A SECOND-HALF PAYMENT DUE IN OR AROUND MAY 2025.
12	(2) "OWNED" INCLUDES PURCHASING UNDER A CONTRACT FOR DEED AND BEING THE GRANTOR OR
13	CRANTORS UNDER A REVOCABLE TRUST INDENTURE.
14	(3) (A) "PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE" MEANS, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (3)(B), A DWELLING:
15	(I) IN WHICH AN OWNER CAN DEMONSTRATE THE OWNER OWNED AND LIVED FOR AT LEAST 7 MONTHS OF
16	THE YEAR FOR WHICH THE PROPERTY TAX REBATE IS CLAIMED;
17	(II) THAT IS THE ONLY RESIDENCE FOR WHICH THE TAXPAYER CLAIMS THE PROPERTY TAX REBATE; AND
18	(III) FOR WHICH THE TAXPAYER MADE PAYMENT OF THE ASSESSED MONTANA PROPERTY TAXES DURING
19	TAX YEAR 2024.
20	(B) A TAXPAYER WHO CANNOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (3)(A)(I) BECAUSE THE OWNER'S
21	PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE CHANGED DURING THE TAX YEAR TO ANOTHER PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE MAY STILL CLAIM THE
22	PROPERTY TAX REBATE IF THE TAXPAYER PAID THE MONTANA PROPERTY TAXES WHILE RESIDING IN EACH PRINCIPAL
23	RESIDENCE FOR A TOTAL OF AT LEAST 7 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS FOR THE 2024 TAX YEAR.
24	(4) "TAX YEAR 2024" MEANS THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024.
25	
26	NEW SECTION. Section 10. Property tax rebate manner of claiming limitations appeals.
27	(1) SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS PROVIDED FOR IN [SECTIONS 9 THROUGH 11], THERE IS A REBATE OF MONTANA



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1	PROPERTY TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400 OR THE AMOUNT OF TOTAL PROPERTY TAXES PAID, WHICHEVER IS LESS, FOR
2	<u>TAX YEAR 2024.</u>
3	(2) THE REBATE PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION (1) IS FOR MONTANA PROPERTY TAXES ASSESSED TO AND
4	PAID BY A TAXPAYER OR TAXPAYERS ON PROPERTY THEY OWNED AND OCCUPIED AS A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE DURING
5	TAX YEAR 2024.
6	(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAIL A NOTICE TO POTENTIAL CLAIMANTS BY JUNE 30, 2025, FOR TAX YEAR
7	2024. RECEIPT OF A NOTICE DOES NOT ESTABLISH THAT A TAXPAYER OR PROPERTY OWNER IS ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE,
8	AND A TAXPAYER WHO DOES NOT RECEIVE A NOTICE MAY STILL BE ELICIBLE TO CLAIM A REBATE. ALL TAXPAYERS,
9	REGARDLESS OF THE RECEIPT OF NOTICE, SHALL CLAIM A REBATE AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (5).
10	(4) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (5)(C) AND (5)(D), A SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING UNIT, UNIT OF A
11	MULTIPLE-UNIT DWELLING, TRAILER, MANUFACTURED HOME, OR MOBILE HOME AND AS MUCH OF THE SURROUNDING
12	LAND, NOT EXCEEDING 1 ACRE THAT IS OWNED BY AN ENTITY IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO CLAIM THE REBATE.
13	(5) (A) (I) ALL CLAIMS FOR THIS PROPERTY TAX REBATE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
14	ELECTRONICALLY OR BY MAIL.
15	(II) ELECTRONIC CLAIMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BETWEEN AUGUST 15, 2025, AND OCTOBER 1, 2025,
16	THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE.
17	(III) CLAIMS SUBMITTED BY MAIL MUST BE MADE ON A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND
18	POSTMARKED BY OCTOBER 1.
19	(IV) THE DEPARTMENT MAY GRANT AN EXTENSION OF TIME IF THE CLAIMANT ESTABLISHES GOOD CAUSE
20	FOR MISSING THE OCTOBER 1 DEADLINE. THE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORITY TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION TERMINATES
21	ON DECEMBER 1, 2025, AND ANY APPLICATIONS OR REQUESTS FOR EXTENSION RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE MAY NOT
22	BE PROCESSED.
23	(B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (5)(C) AND (5)(D), A CLAIM FOR REBATE MUST BE SUBMITTED, UNDER
24	PENALTY OF FALSE SWEARING AND THE PENALTIES PROVIDED IN [SECTION 11], ON A FORM PRESCRIBED BY THE
25	DEPARTMENT AND MUST CONTAIN:
26	(I) AN AFFIRMATION THAT THE CLAIMANT OWNS AND MAINTAINS THE LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS AS THE
27	PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AS DEFINED IN [SECTION 9];



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1	(II) THE GEOCODE OR OTHER PROPERTY IDENTIFIER FOR THE PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE THAT THE CLAIMANT IS
2	REQUESTING THE REBATE ON;
3	(III) THE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF THE CLAIMANT AND THE CLAIMANT'S SPOUSE; AND
4	(IV) ANY OTHER INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT IS RELEVANT TO THE CLAIMANT'S
5	ELIGIBILITY.
6	(C) THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF A DECEASED TAXPAYER MAY EXECUTE AND FILE
7	THE CLAIM FOR REBATE ON BEHALF OF A DECEASED TAXPAYER WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE REBATE.
8	(D) THE TRUSTEE OF A GRANTOR REVOCABLE TRUST MAY FILE A CLAIM ON BEHALF OF THE TRUST IF THE
9	DWELLING MEETS THE DEFINITION OF A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE FOR THE GRANTOR.
10	(6) ONLY ONE REBATE WILL BE ISSUED TO A TAXPAYER FOR THE MONTANA PROPERTY TAXES PAID BY THE
11	TAXPAYER FOR TAX YEAR 2024.
12	(7) IF A DEBT IS DUE AND OWING TO THE STATE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY OFFSET THE REBATE IN THIS
13	SECTION AS PROVIDED IN SECTIONS 15-30-2629, 15-30-2630, 17-4-105, OR AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW.
14	(8) IF A PROPERTY TAX REBATE IS DENIED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE CLAIMANT IS ENTITLED TO A WRITTEN
15	EXPLANATION WHY THE APPLICATION WAS DENIED. A CLAIMANT MAY MAKE A WRITTEN APPEAL OF A DENIAL TO A
16	MANAGEMENT LEVEL EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT, WHO SHALL ISSUE A FINAL DECISION THAT IS NOT APPEALABLE.
17	Appeals occurring under this subsection (8) are not subject to the provisions contained in 15-1-211.
18	
19	NEW SECTION. Section 11. Property tax rebate Penalty for false or fraudulent claim. (1)
20	EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (2), IF THE DEPARTMENT DISCOVERS THAT A REBATE PAID TO A TAXPAYER
21	EXCEEDED THE AMOUNT ALLOWED BY [SECTIONS 9 THROUGH 11], THE DEPARTMENT MAY, WITHIN 1 YEAR FROM THE
22	DATE THE REBATE WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE TAXPAYER, ASSESS THE TAXPAYER FOR THE DIFFERENCE. THE
23	ASSESSMENT IS SUBJECT TO THE UNIFORM DISPUTE REVIEW PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED IN 15-1-211.
24	(2) A PERSON WHO FILES A FALSE OR FRAUDULENT CLAIM FOR A PROPERTY TAX REBATE UNDER
25	[SECTIONS 9 THROUGH 11] IS SUBJECT TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF 45-7-202. IF A FALSE OR
26	FRAUDULENT CLAIM HAS BEEN PAID BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE AMOUNT PAID MAY BE RECOVERED AS ANY OTHER TAX
27	OWED THE STATE, TOGETHER WITH A PENALTY OF 300% OF THE REBATE CLAIMED AND INTEREST ON THE AMOUNT OF



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1 THE REBATE CLAIMED PLUS PENALTY AT THE RATE OF 12% A YEAR, UNTIL PAID. IF THIS REBATE PLUS PENALTY BECOMES DUE AND OWING. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE A WARRANT FOR DISTRAINT AS PROVIDED IN TITLE 15, CHAPTER 1, PART 2 3 <u>7.</u> 4 5 **SECTION 9.** SECTION 15-1-121, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ: 6 "15-1-121. Entitlement share payment -- purpose -- appropriation. (1) As described in 15-1-120(3), each local government is entitled to an annual amount that is the replacement for revenue received by 7 8 local governments for diminishment of property tax base and various earmarked fees and other revenue that, 9 pursuant to Chapter 574, Laws of 2001, amended by section 4, Chapter 13, Special Laws of August 2002, and 10 later enactments, were consolidated to provide aggregation of certain reimbursements, fees, tax collections, 11 and other revenue in the state treasury with each local government's share. The reimbursement under this 12 section is provided by direct payment from the state treasury rather than the ad hoc system that offset certain 13 state payments with local government collections due the state and reimbursements made by percentage splits, 14 with a local government remitting a portion of collections to the state, retaining a portion, and in some cases 15 sending a portion to other local governments. 16 The sources of dedicated revenue that were relinquished by local governments in exchange for (2) an entitlement share of the state general fund were: 17 18 (a) personal property tax reimbursements pursuant to sections 167(1) through (5) and 169(6), 19 Chapter 584, Laws of 1999; 20 (b) vehicle, boat, and aircraft taxes and fees pursuant to: 21 Title 23, chapter 2, part 5; (i) 22 Title 23, chapter 2, part 6; (ii) 23 (iii) Title 23, chapter 2, part 8; 24 (iv) 61-3-317; 25 (v) 61-3-321;



(vi)

amendment of 61-3-509 in 2001;

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Title 61, chapter 3, part 5, except for 61-3-509(3), as that subsection read prior to the

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1	(i) for the market value less than 6 times the median commercial and industrial value, 1.5%; and
2	(ii) for the market value greater than6 times the median commercial and industrial value OR
3	GREATER, <u>2.1%</u> 1.9%.
4	(4)(e) Property described in subsection (1)(e)(ii) (1)(f)(ii) is taxed at one-half the tax rate established
5	n subsection (3)(c) <u>(3)(d)</u> .
6	(4) The department shall calculate the median residential value and median commercial and
7	ndustrial value every 2 years as part of the periodic reappraisal provided for in 15-7-111.
8	(5) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:
9	(a) "Median commercial and industrial value" means the median value of class four commercial
10	and industrial property located in the state of Montana rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.
11	(b) "Median residential value" means the median value of a single-family residence located in the
12	state of Montana rounded to the nearest thousand dollars."
13	
14	SECTION 11. SECTION 15-6-134, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:
15	"15-6-134. Class four property description taxable percentage. (1) Class four property
16	ncludes:
17	(a) subject to subsection (1)(e), all land, except that specifically included in another class;
18	(b) subject to subsection (1)(e):
19	(i) all improvements, including single-family residences, trailers, manufactured homes, or mobile
20	nomes used as a residence, except those specifically included in another class;
21	(ii) appurtenant improvements to the residences, including the parcels of land upon which the
22	residences are located and any leasehold improvements;
23	(iii) vacant residential lots; and
24	(iv) rental multifamily dwelling units.
25	(c) all improvements on land that is eligible for valuation, assessment, and taxation as agricultura
26	and under 15-7-202, including 1 acre of real property beneath improvements on land described in 15-6-
27	I33(1)(c). The 1 acre must be valued at market value.



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1	(d)	1 acre of real property beneath an improvement used as a residence on land eligible for
2	valuation, asse	essment, and taxation as forest land under 15-6-143. The 1 acre must be valued at market value
3	(e)	all commercial and industrial property, as defined in 15-1-101, and including:
4	(i)	all commercial and industrial property that is used or owned by an individual, a business, a
5	trade, a corpor	ration, a limited liability company, or a partnership and that is used primarily for the production of
6	income;	
7	(ii)	all golf courses, including land and improvements actually and necessarily used for that
8	purpose, that o	consist of at least nine holes and not less than 700 lineal yards;
9	(iii)	commercial buildings and parcels of land upon which the buildings are situated; and
10	(iv)	vacant commercial lots.
11	(2)	If a property includes both residential and commercial uses, the property is classified and
12	appraised as f	ollows:
13	(a)	the land use with the highest percentage of total value is the use that is assigned to the
14	property; and	
15	(b)	the improvements are apportioned according to the use of the improvements.
16	(3)	(a) Except as provided in 15-24-1402, 15-24-1501, 15-24-1502 , and subsection (3)(b), class
17	four residentia	I property described in subsections (1)(a) through (1)(d) of this section is taxed at 1.35% 0.76%
18	of market value	e a graduated rate as follows:
19	<u>(i)</u>	0.76% for the first \$400,000 of market value;
20	<u>(ii)</u>	1.1% for the market value that is greater than \$400,000 and up to \$1.5 million; and
21	(iii)	2.2% for the market value that is greater than \$1.5 million.
22	(b)	The tax rate for the portion of the market value of a single-family residential dwelling in excess
23	of \$1.5 million	is the residential property tax rate in subsection (3)(a) multiplied by 1.4.
24	(c)	The tax rate for commercial property is the residential property tax rate in subsection (3)(a)
25	multiplied by 1	.4 <u>1.89%</u> .
26	(4)	Property described in subsection (1)(e)(ii) is taxed at one-half the tax rate established in
27	subsection (3)	(e) (3)(b)."



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69th Legislature 2025 Drafter: Jaret Coles, HB0231.005.005

1 issuance of a tax deed for the property;

- 2 (g) a statement specifying the date on which the county or an assignee will be entitled to a tax 3 deed; and
 - (h) an identification number corresponding to the tax lien certificate.
 - (3) The tax lien certificate must be signed by the county treasurer. A copy of the tax lien certificate must be filed by the treasurer in the office of the county clerk. A copy of the tax lien certificate must also be mailed to the person to whom the taxes were assessed, at the address of record, together with a notice that the person may contact the county treasurer for further information on property tax liens.
 - (4) Prior to attaching a tax lien to the property, the county treasurer shall send notice of the pending attachment of a tax lien to the person to whom the property was assessed. The notice must include the information listed in subsection (2), state that the tax lien may be assigned to a third party, and provide notice of the availability of all the property tax assistance programs available to property taxpayers, including the property tax assistance programs under Title 15, chapter 6, part 3, the homestead reduced tax rate provided for in [section 3 2], the rental property reduced tax rate provided for in [section 4 3], and the residential property tax credit for the elderly under 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341. The notice must have been mailed at least 2 weeks prior to the date on which the county treasurer attaches the tax lien.
 - (5) The county treasurer shall file the tax lien certificate with the county clerk and recorder."

19 SECTION 21, SECTION 15-30-2120, MCA, IS AMENDED TO READ:

"15-30-2120. Adjustments to federal taxable income to determine Montana taxable income. (1)

The items in subsection (2) are added to and the items in subsection (3) are subtracted from federal taxable income to determine Montana taxable income.

- (2) The following are added to federal taxable income:
- (a) to the extent that it is not exempt from taxation by Montana under federal law, interest from obligations of a territory or another state or any political subdivision of a territory or another state and exempt-interest dividends attributable to that interest except to the extent already included in federal taxable income;
 - (b) that portion of a shareholder's income under subchapter S. of Chapter 1 of the Internal



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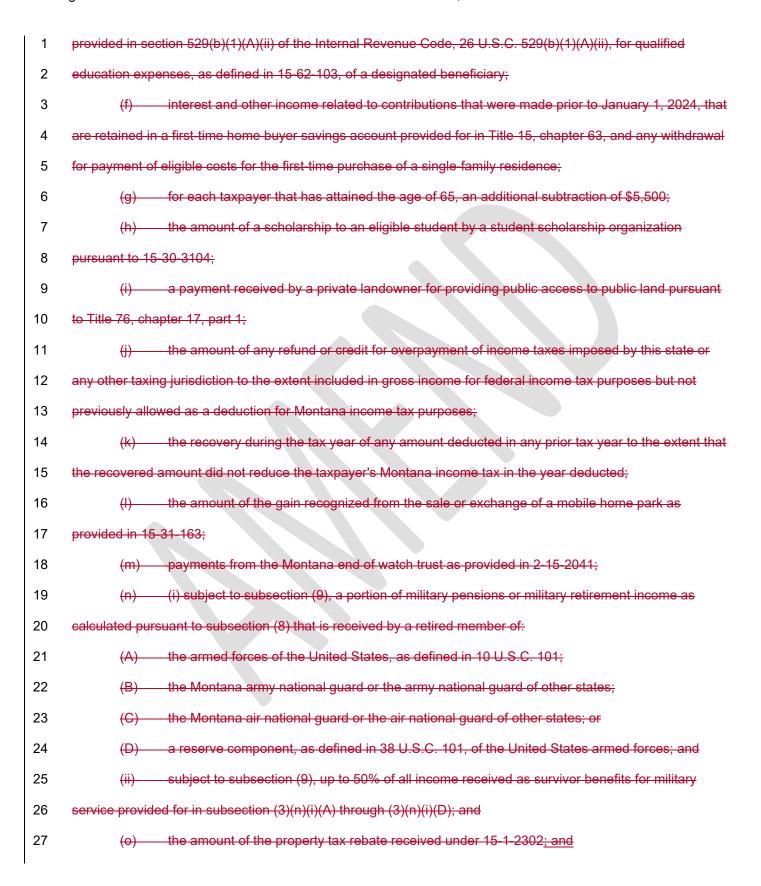
1	Revenue Code that has been reduced by any federal taxes paid by the subchapter S. corporation on the
2	income;
3	(c) depreciation or amortization taken on a title plant as defined in 33-25-105;
4	(d) the recovery during the tax year of an amount deducted in any prior tax year to the extent that
5	the amount recovered reduced the taxpayer's Montana income tax in the year deducted;
6	(e) an item of income, deduction, or expense to the extent that it was used to calculate federal
7	taxable income if the item was also used to calculate a credit against a Montana income tax liability;
8	(f) a deduction for an income distribution from an estate or trust to a beneficiary that was included
9	in the federal taxable income of an estate or trust in accordance with sections 651 and 661 of the Internal
10	Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 651 and 661;
11	(g) a withdrawal from a medical care savings account provided for in Title 15, chapter 61, used for
12	a purpose other than an eligible medical expense or long-term care of the employee or account holder or a
13	dependent of the employee or account holder;
14	(h) a withdrawal from a first-time home buyer savings account provided for in Title 15, chapter 63,
15	used for a purpose other than for eligible costs for the purchase of a single-family residence;
16	(i) for a taxpayer that deducts the qualified business income deduction pursuant to section 199A
17	of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 199A, an amount equal to the qualified business income deduction
18	claimed;
19	(j) for an individual taxpayer that deducts state income taxes pursuant to section 164(a)(3) of the
20	Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 164(a)(3), an additional amount equal to the state income tax deduction
21	claimed, not to exceed the amount required to reduce the federal itemized amount computed under section 161
22	of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 161, to the amount of the federal standard deduction allowable under
23	section 63(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 63(c); and
24	(k) for a pass-through entity, estate, or trust, the amount of state income taxes deducted pursuant
25	to section 164(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C 164(a)(3).
26	(3) To the extent they are included as income or gain or not already excluded as a deduction or
27	expense in determining federal taxable income, the following are subtracted from federal taxable income:

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1	(a) a deduction for an income distribution from an estate or trust to a beneficiary in accordance
2	with sections 651 and 661 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 651 and 661, recalculated according to the
3	additions and subtractions in subsections (2) and (3)(b) through (3)(o) (3)(p);
4	(b) if exempt from taxation by Montana under federal law:
5	(i) interest from obligations of the United States government and exempt-interest dividends
6	attributable to that interest; and
7	(ii) railroad retirement benefits;
8	(c) (i) salary received from the armed forces by residents of Montana who are serving on active
9	duty in the regular armed forces and who entered into active duty from Montana;
10	(ii) the salary received by residents of Montana for active duty in the national guard. For the
11	purposes of this subsection (3)(c)(ii), "active duty" means duty performed under an order issued to a national
12	guard member pursuant to:
13	(A) Title 10, U.S.C.; or
14	(B) Title 32, U.S.C., for a homeland defense activity, as defined in 32 U.S.C. 901, or a contingency
15	operation, as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101, and the person was a member of a unit engaged in a homeland
16	defense activity or contingency operation.
17	(iii) the amount received by a beneficiary pursuant to 10-1-1201; and
18	(iv) all payments made under the World War I bonus law, the Korean bonus law, and the veterans'
19	bonus law. Any income tax that has been or may be paid on income received from the World War I bonus law,
20	Korean bonus law, and the veterans' bonus law is considered an overpayment and must be refunded upon the
21	filing of an amended return and a verified claim for refund on forms prescribed by the department in the same
22	manner as other income tax refund claims are paid.
23	(d) annual contributions and income in a medical care savings account provided for in Title 15,
24	chapter 61, and any withdrawal for payment of eligible medical expenses or for the long-term care of the
25	employee or account holder or a dependent of the employee or account holder;
26	(e) contributions or earnings withdrawn from a family education savings account provided for in
27	Title 15, chapter 62, or from a qualified tuition program established and maintained by another state as



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1	(p) the amount of the property tax rebate received under [section 10].
2	(4) (a) A taxpayer who, in determining federal taxable income, has reduced the taxpayer's
3	business deductions:
4	(i) by an amount for wages and salaries for which a federal tax credit was elected under sections
5	38 and 51(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 38 and 51(a), is allowed to deduct the amount of the
6	wages and salaries paid regardless of the credit taken; or
7	(ii) for which a federal tax credit was elected under the Internal Revenue Code is allowed to
8	deduct the amount of the business expense paid when there is no corresponding state income tax credit or
9	deduction, regardless of the credit taken.
10	(b) The deductions in subsection (4)(a) must be made in the year that the wages, salaries, or
11	business expenses were used to compute the credit. In the case of a partnership or small business corporation,
12	the deductions in subsection (4)(a) must be made to determine the amount of income or loss of the partnership
13	or small business corporation.
14	(5) (a) An individual who contributes to one or more accounts established under the Montana
15	family education savings program or to a qualified tuition program established and maintained by another state
16	as provided in section 529(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 529(b)(1)(A)(ii), may reduce
17	taxable income by the lesser of \$3,000 or the amount of the contribution. In the case of married taxpayers, each
18	spouse is entitled to a reduction, not in excess of \$3,000, for the spouses' contributions to the accounts.
19	Spouses may jointly elect to treat half of the total contributions made by the spouses as being made by each
20	spouse. The reduction in taxable income under this subsection (5)(a) applies only with respect to contributions
21	to an account of which the account owner is the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, or the taxpayer's child or
22	stepchild if the taxpayer's child or stepchild is a Montana resident. The provisions of subsection (2)(d) do not
23	apply with respect to withdrawals of contributions that reduced federal taxable income.
24	(b) Contributions made pursuant to this subsection (5) are subject to the recapture tax provided for
25	in 15-62-208.
26	(6) (a) An individual who contributes to one or more accounts established under the Montana
27	achieving a better life experience program or to a qualified program established and maintained by another



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1	state may reduce taxable income by the lesser of \$3,000 or the amount of the contribution. In the case of
2	married taxpayers, each spouse is entitled to a reduction, not to exceed \$3,000, for the spouses' contributions
3	to the accounts. Spouses may jointly elect to treat one-half of the total contributions made by the spouses as
4	being made by each spouse. The reduction in taxable income under this subsection (6)(a) applies only with
5	respect to contributions to an account for which the account owner is the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, or
6	the taxpayer's child or stepchild if the taxpayer's child or stepchild is a Montana resident. The provisions of
7	subsection (2)(d) do not apply with respect to withdrawals of contributions that reduced taxable income.
8	(b) Contributions made pursuant to this subsection (6) are subject to the recapture tax provided in
9	53-25-118.
10	(7) By November 1 of each year, the department shall multiply the subtraction from federal taxable
11	income for a taxpayer that has attained the age of 65 contained in subsection (3)(g) by the inflation factor for
12	that tax year, rounding the result to the nearest \$10. The resulting amount is effective for that tax year and must
13	be used as the basis for the subtraction from federal taxable income determined under subsection (3)(g).
14	(8) (a) Subject to subsection (9), the subtraction in subsection (3)(n)(i) is equal to the lesser of:
15	(i) the amount of Montana source wage income on the return; or
16	(ii) 50% of the taxpayer's military pension or military retirement income.
17	(b) For the purposes of subsection (8)(a)(i), "Montana source wage income" means:
18	(i) wages, salary, tips, and other compensation for services performed in the state;
19	(ii) net income from a trade, business, profession, or occupation carried on in the state; and
20	(iii) net income from farming activities carried on in the state.
21	(9) The subtractions in subsection (3)(n):
22	(a) may only be claimed by a person who:
23	(i) becomes a resident of the state after June 30, 2023; or
24	(ii) was a resident of the state before receiving military pension or military retirement income and
25	remained a resident after receiving military pension or military retirement income;
26	(b) may only be claimed for 5 consecutive years after satisfying the provisions of subsection (9)(a);
27	and and



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1	(c) are not available if a taxpayer claimed the exemption before becoming a nonresident.
2	(Subsection (3)(o) terminates June 30, 2025-sec. 10, Ch. 47, L. 2023; subsections (3)(n), (8), and (9) terminates
3	December 31, 2033-sec. 4, Ch. 650, L. 2023.)"
4	
5	NEW SECTION. Section 22. Property tax assistance account. (1) There is a state property tax
6	ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT IN THE STATE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND ESTABLISHED IN 17-2-102 TO THE CREDIT OF THE
7	DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE. THE REVENUE ALLOCATED TO THE ACCOUNT MUST BE USED TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX
8	ASSISTANCE.
9	(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE MONEY IN THE ACCOUNT TO PROVIDE REBATES PURSUANT TO SECTION
10	<u>10].</u>
11	
12	NEW SECTION. Section 18. Codification instruction. (1) [Sections 1 through 7] are intended to be
13	codified as an integral part of Title 15, chapter 6, and the provisions of Title 15, chapter 6, apply to [sections 1
14	through 7].
15	(2) [SECTION 8] IS INTENDED TO BE CODIFIED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF TITLE 15, CHAPTER 1, PART 1, AND
16	THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 15, CHAPTER 1, PART 1, APPLY TO [SECTION 8].
17	(3) [Sections 9 THROUGH 11] ARE INTENDED TO BE CODIFIED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF TITLE 15,
18	CHAPTER 1, AND THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 15, CHAPTER 1, APPLY TO [SECTIONS 9 THROUGH 11].
19	(4) [Section 22] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 15, chapter 1, and the
20	PROVISIONS OF TITLE 15, CHAPTER 1, APPLY TO [SECTION 22].
21	
22	NEW SECTION. Section 19. Effective datedates contingency. (1) Except as provided in
23	SUBSECTIONS (2) AND (3), [This THIS act] is effective on passage and approval.
24	(2) [SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 6, 43 10, AND 45 12 THROUGH 20 17] ARE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026
25	<u>2027.</u>
26	(3) [Sections 8 and 42 9] are effective on the date that the department of revenue certifies to the
27	code commissioner that a court of final disposition finds that [section 7] is invalid. The department of revenue



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1	shall submit certification within 30 days of the occurrence of the contingency.
2	
3	NEW SECTION. Section 25. Transfer of funds. The state treasurer shall transfer \$90 million
4	FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE ACCOUNT PROVIDED FOR IN [SECTION 22] BY JULY 1,
5	<u>2025.</u>
6	
7	COORDINATION SECTION. Section 17. Coordination instruction. If House Bill No. 154 is not
8	PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE AND IF [THIS ACT] IS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE AND CONTAINS A SECTION THAT
9	AMENDS 15-6-134, THEN SUBSECTION (3)(B)(I)(A) OF 15-6-134 IN [THIS ACT] MUST BE REPLACED WITH THE FOLLOWING
10	i ·
11	"(A) 0.74% FOR THE MARKET VALUE THAT IS 2 TIMES THE MEDIAN RESIDENTIAL VALUE OR LESS;"
12	
13	
14	NEW SECTION. SECTION 20. SEVERABILITY. IF A PART OF [THIS ACT] IS INVALID, ALL VALID PARTS THAT
15	ARE SEVERABLE FROM THE INVALID PART REMAIN IN EFFECT. IF A PART OF [THIS ACT] IS INVALID IN ONE OR MORE OF ITS
16	APPLICATIONS, THE PART REMAINS IN EFFECT IN ALL VALID APPLICATIONS THAT ARE SEVERABLE FROM THE INVALID
17	APPLICATIONS.
18	
19	COORDINATION SECTION. Section 21. Coordination instruction. If both House Bill No. 863 and
20	[this act] are passed and approved, then the section in House Bill No. 863 that coordinates with House Bill No.
21	231 is void.
22	
23	NEW SECTION. Section 22. Applicability retroactive applicability. (1) Except as provided in
24	subsection (2), [this act] applies retroactively to property tax years beginning after December 31, 2024.
25	(2) [Sections 3-and 4 1 THROUGH 6, 43 10, AND 45 12 THROUGH 20 17] apply to property tax years
26	beginning after December 31, 2026 2025 <u>2026</u> .
27	



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1	NEW SECTION. Section 19. Termination. [Section 2] and the references to [section 2] in [section 5
2], 15-6-134, 15-15-101, 15-15-102, and 15-15-103 terminate December 31, 2026.
3	
4	NEW SECTION. Section 23. Termination. (1) [Section 14 11] TERMINATES DECEMBER 31, 2025 2026.
5	(2) [Sections 9 through 11 and 21] terminate June 30, 2026.
6	
7	NEW SECTION. Section 24. Contingent termination. [Sections 8 and 42 9] TERMINATE ON THE DATE
8	THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE CERTIFIES TO THE CODE COMMISSIONER THAT REIMBURSEMENTS AUTHORIZED
9	PURSUANT TO [SECTION 8] HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SHALL SUBMIT CERTIFICATION
10	WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF THE CONTINGENCY.
11	- END -

