

SENATE BILL NO. 542

INTRODUCED BY W. GALT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING TAX LAWS; ~~FREEZING CERTAIN~~  
~~PROPERTY VALUES FOR PROPERTY TAX PURPOSES; PROVIDING THAT THE 2024 PROPERTY VALUE~~  
~~IS USED FOR 2025 AND 2026 UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE DETERMINES THE PROPERTY~~  
~~VALUE HAS DECREASED; REVISING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT;~~  
~~PROVIDING THAT THE CREDIT IS AVAILABLE FOR TAXPAYERS OF ALL AGES; REQUIRING A~~  
~~COPAYMENT FOR TAXPAYERS UNDER 62 YEARS OF AGE; AMENDING SECTION 15-7-114, SECTIONS~~  
~~15-6-201, 15-7-102, 15-16-101, 15-17-125, 15-30-2303, 15-30-2338, AND 15-30-2340, MCA; AND~~  
PROVIDING AN ~~IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE, A RETROACTIVE~~ APPLICABILITY DATE, ~~AND A~~  
~~TERMINATION DATE.~~"

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(Refer to Introduced Bill)

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert:

**Section 1.** Section 15-6-201, MCA, is amended to read:

**"15-6-201. Governmental, charitable, and educational categories -- exempt property.** (1) The following categories of property are exempt from taxation:

(a) except as provided in 15-24-1203, the property of:

(i) the United States, except:

(A) if congress passes legislation that allows the state to tax property owned by the federal government or an agency created by congress; or

(B) as provided in 15-24-1103;

(ii) the state, counties, cities, towns, and school districts;

(iii) irrigation districts organized under the laws of Montana and not operated for gain or profit;

(iv) municipal corporations;

(v) public libraries;

(vi) rural fire districts and other entities providing fire protection under Title 7, chapter 33;

(vii) special districts created pursuant to Title 7, chapter 11, part 10; and

(viii) subject to subsection (2), federally recognized Indian tribes in the state if the property is located entirely within the exterior boundaries of the reservation of the tribe that owns the property and the property is used exclusively by the tribe for essential government services. Essential government services are tribal government administration, fire, police, public health, education, recreation, sewer, water, pollution control, public transit, and public parks and recreational facilities.

(b) buildings and furnishings in the buildings that are owned by a church and used for actual religious worship or for residences of the clergy, not to exceed one residence for each member of the clergy, together with the land that the buildings occupy and adjacent land reasonably necessary for convenient use of the buildings, which must be identified in the application, and all land and improvements used for educational or youth recreational activities if the facilities are generally available for use by the general public but may not exceed 15 acres for a church or 1 acre for a clergy residence after subtracting any area required by zoning, building codes, or subdivision requirements;

(c) land and improvements upon the land, not to exceed 15 acres, owned by a federally recognized Indian tribe when the land has been set aside by tribal resolution and designated as sacred land to be used exclusively for religious purposes;

(d) property owned and used exclusively for agricultural and horticultural societies not operated for gain or profit;

(e) property, not to exceed 80 acres, which must be legally described in the application for the exemption, used exclusively for educational purposes, including dormitories and food service buildings for the use of students in attendance and other structures necessary for the operation and maintenance of an educational institution that:

(i) is not operated for gain or profit;

(ii) has an attendance policy; and

(iii) has a definable curriculum with systematic instruction;

(f) property, of any acreage, owned by a tribal corporation created for the sole purpose of establishing schools, colleges, and universities if the property meets the requirements of subsection (1)(e);

(g) property used exclusively for nonprofit health care facilities, as defined in 50-5-101, licensed by the department of public health and human services and organized under Title 35, chapter 2 or 3. A health care facility that is not licensed by the department of public health and human services and organized under Title 35, chapter 2 or 3, is not exempt.

(h) property that is:

(i) (A) owned and held by an association or corporation organized under Title 35, chapter 2, 3, 20, or 21; or

(B) owned by a federally recognized Indian tribe within the state and set aside by tribal resolution; and

(ii) devoted exclusively to use in connection with a cemetery or cemeteries for which a permanent care and improvement fund has been established as provided for in Title 35, chapter 20, part 3; and

(iii) not maintained and not operated for gain or profit;

(i) subject to subsection (2), property that is owned or property that is leased from a federal, state, or local governmental entity by institutions of purely public charity if the property is directly used for purely public charitable purposes;

(j) evidence of debt secured by mortgages of record upon real or personal property in the state of Montana;

(k) public museums, art galleries, zoos, and observatories that are not operated for gain or profit;

(l) motor vehicles, land, fixtures, buildings, and improvements owned by a cooperative association or nonprofit corporation organized to furnish potable water to its members or customers for uses other than the irrigation of agricultural land;

(m) the right of entry that is a property right reserved in land or received by mesne conveyance (exclusive of leasehold interests), devise, or succession to enter land with a surface title that is held by another to explore, prospect, or dig for oil, gas, coal, or minerals;

(n) (i) property that is owned and used by a corporation or association organized and operated exclusively for the care of persons with developmental disabilities, persons with mental illness, or persons with

1 physical or mental impairments that constitute or result in substantial impediments to employment and that is  
2 not operated for gain or profit; and

3 (ii) subject to subsection (2)(e), property that is owned and used by an organization owning and  
4 operating facilities that are for the care of the retired, aged, or chronically ill and that are not operated for gain or  
5 profit;

6 (o) property owned by a nonprofit corporation that is organized to provide facilities primarily for  
7 training and practice for or competition in international sports and athletic events and that is not held or used for  
8 private or corporate gain or profit. For purposes of this subsection (1)(o), "nonprofit corporation" means an  
9 organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and incorporated  
10 and admitted under the Montana Nonprofit Corporation Act.

11 (p) property rented or leased to a municipality or taxing unit for less than \$100 a year and that is  
12 used for public park, recreation, or landscape beautification purposes. For the purposes of this subsection  
13 (1)(p), "property" includes land but does not include buildings. The exemption must be applied for by the  
14 municipality or taxing unit, and not more than 10 acres within the municipality or taxing unit may be exempted.

15 (2) (a) (i) For the purposes of tribal property under subsection (1)(a)(viii), the property subject to  
16 exemption may not be:

17 (A) operated for gain or profit;

18 (B) held under contract to operate, lease, or sell by a taxable individual;

19 (C) used or possessed exclusively by a taxable individual or entity; or

20 (D) held by a tribal corporation except for educational purposes as provided in subsection (1)(f).

21 (ii) For the purposes of parks and recreational facilities under subsection (1)(a)(viii), the property  
22 must be:

23 (A) set aside by tribal resolution and designated as park land, not to exceed 640 acres, or be  
24 designated as a recreational facility; and

25 (B) open to the general public.

26 (b) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), the term "clergy" means, as recognized under the  
27 federal Internal Revenue Code:

28 (i) an ordained minister, priest, or rabbi;

(ii) a commissioned or licensed minister of a church or church denomination that ordains ministers if the person has the authority to perform substantially all the religious duties of the church or denomination;

(iii) a member of a religious order who has taken a vow of poverty; or

(iv) a Christian Science practitioner.

(c) For the purposes of subsection (1)(i):

(i) the term "institutions of purely public charity" includes any organization that meets the following requirements:

(A) The organization offers its charitable goods or services to persons without regard to race, religion, creed, or gender and qualifies as a tax-exempt organization under the provisions of section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

(B) The organization accomplishes its activities through absolute gratuity or grants. However, the organization may solicit or raise funds by the sale of merchandise, memberships, or tickets to public performances or entertainment or by other similar types of fundraising activities.

(ii) agricultural property owned by a purely public charity is not exempt if the agricultural property is used by the charity to produce unrelated business taxable income as that term is defined in section 512 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 512. A public charity claiming an exemption for agricultural property shall file annually with the department a copy of its federal tax return reporting any unrelated business taxable income received by the charity during the tax year, together with a statement indicating whether the exempt property was used to generate any unrelated business taxable income.

(iii) up to 15 acres of property owned by a purely public charity is exempt at the time of its purchase even if the property must be improved before it can directly be used for its intended charitable purpose. If the property is not directly used for the charitable purpose within 8 years of receiving an exemption under this section or if the property is sold or transferred before it entered direct charitable use, the exemption is revoked and the property is taxable. In addition to taxes due for the first year that the property becomes taxable, the owner of the property shall pay an amount equal to the amount of the tax due that year times the number of years that the property was tax-exempt under this section. The amount due is a lien upon the property and when collected must be distributed by the treasurer to funds and accounts in the same ratio as property tax collected on the property is distributed. At the time the exemption is granted, the department shall file a notice

with the clerk and recorder in the county in which the property is located. The notice must indicate that an exemption pursuant to this section has been granted. The notice must describe the penalty for default under this section and must specify that a default under this section will create a lien on the property by operation of law. The notice must be on a form prescribed by the department.

(iv) not more than 160 acres may be exempted by a purely public charity under any exemption originally applied for after December 31, 2004. An application for exemption under this section must contain a legal description of the property for which the exemption is requested.

(d) For the purposes of subsection (1)(k), the term "public museums, art galleries, zoos, and observatories" means governmental entities or nonprofit organizations whose principal purpose is to hold property for public display or for use as a museum, art gallery, zoo, or observatory. The exempt property includes all real and personal property owned by the public museum, art gallery, zoo, or observatory that is reasonably necessary for use in connection with the public display or observatory use. Unless the property is leased for a profit to a governmental entity or nonprofit organization by an individual or for-profit organization, real and personal property owned by other persons is exempt if it is:

(i) actually used by the governmental entity or nonprofit organization as a part of its public display;

(ii) held for future display; or

(iii) used to house or store a public display.

(e) For the purposes of facilities for the care of the retired, aged, or chronically ill under subsection (1)(n)(ii), the terms "retired" and "aged" mean an individual who satisfies the ~~age and~~ gross household income limitations of 15-30-2338 and is 62 years of age or older. The property owner shall verify age and gross household income requirements on a form prescribed by the department. Applicants are subject to the false swearing penalties established in 45-7-202."

**Section 2.** Section 15-7-102, MCA, is amended to read:

**"15-7-102. Notice of classification, market value, and taxable value to owners -- appeals.** (1) (a)

Except as provided in 15-7-138, the department shall mail or provide electronically to each owner or purchaser under contract for deed a notice that includes the land classification, market value, and taxable value of the land and improvements owned or being purchased. A notice must be mailed or, with property owner consent,

provided electronically to the owner only if one or more of the following changes pertaining to the land or improvements have been made since the last notice:

- (i) change in ownership;
- (ii) change in classification;
- (iii) change in valuation; or
- (iv) addition or subtraction of personal property affixed to the land.

(b) The notice must include the following for the taxpayer's informational and informal classification and appraisal review purposes:

(i) a notice of the availability of all the property tax assistance programs available to property taxpayers, including the intangible land value assistance program provided for in 15-6-240, the property tax assistance programs provided for in Title 15, chapter 6, part 3, and the residential property tax credit ~~for the elderly~~ provided for in 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341;

(ii) the total amount of mills levied against the property in the prior year;

(iii) the market value for the prior reappraisal cycle;

(iv) if the market value has increased by more than 10%, an explanation for the increase in valuation;

(v) a statement that the notice is not a tax bill; and

(vi) a taxpayer option to request an informal classification and appraisal review by checking a box on the notice and returning it to the department.

(c) When the department uses an appraisal method that values land and improvements as a unit, including the sales comparison approach for residential condominiums or the income approach for commercial property, the notice must contain a combined appraised value of land and improvements.

(d) Any misinformation provided in the information required by subsection (1)(b) does not affect the validity of the notice and may not be used as a basis for a challenge of the legality of the notice.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(c), the department shall assign each classification and appraisal to the correct owner or purchaser under contract for deed and mail or provide electronically the notice in written or electronic form, adopted by the department, containing sufficient information in a comprehensible manner designed to fully inform the taxpayer as to the classification and appraisal of the property and of

changes over the prior tax year.

(b) The notice must advise the taxpayer that in order to be eligible for a refund of taxes from an appeal of the classification or appraisal, the taxpayer is required to pay the taxes under protest as provided in 15-1-402.

(c) The department is not required to mail or provide electronically the notice to a new owner or purchaser under contract for deed unless the department has received the realty transfer certificate from the clerk and recorder as provided in 15-7-304 and has processed the certificate before the notices required by subsection (2)(a) are mailed or provided electronically. The department shall notify the county tax appeal board of the date of the mailing or the date when the taxpayer is informed the information is available electronically.

(3) (a) If the owner of any land and improvements is dissatisfied with the appraisal as it reflects the market value of the property as determined by the department or with the classification of the land or improvements, the owner may request an informal classification and appraisal review by submitting an objection on written or electronic forms provided by the department for that purpose or by checking a box on the notice and returning it to the department in a manner prescribed by the department.

(i) For property other than class three property described in 15-6-133, class four property described in 15-6-134, class ten property described in 15-6-143, and centrally assessed property described in 15-23-101, the objection must be submitted within 30 days from the date on the notice.

(ii) For class three property described in 15-6-133, class four property described in 15-6-134, and class ten property described in 15-6-143, the objection may be made only once each valuation cycle. An objection must be made in writing or by checking a box on the notice within 30 days from the date on the classification and appraisal notice for a reduction in the appraised value to be considered for both years of the 2-year valuation cycle. An objection made more than 30 days from the date of the classification and appraisal notice will be applicable only for the second year of the 2-year valuation cycle. For an objection to apply to the second year of the valuation cycle, the taxpayer shall make the objection in writing or by checking a box on the notice no later than June 1 of the second year of the valuation cycle or, if a classification and appraisal notice is received in the second year of the valuation cycle, within 30 days from the date on the notice.

(iii) For centrally assessed property described in 15-23-101(2)(a), the objection must be submitted within 20 days from the date on the notice. A taxpayer may submit an objection up to 10 days after this deadline



on request to the department.

(iv) (A) For centrally assessed property described in 15-23-101(2)(b) and (2)(c), an objection to the valuation or classification may be made only once each valuation cycle. An objection must be made in writing within the time period specified in subsection (3)(a)(iii) for a reduction in the appraised value to be considered for both years of the 2-year valuation cycle. An objection made after the deadline specified in subsection (3)(a)(iii) will be applicable only for the second year of the 2-year valuation cycle. For an objection to apply to the second year of the valuation cycle, the taxpayer shall make the objection in writing no later than June 1 of the second year of the valuation cycle or, if a classification and appraisal notice is received in the second year of the valuation cycle, within the time period specified in subsection (3)(a)(iii).

(B) If a property owner has exhausted the right to object to a valuation, as provided for in subsection (3)(a)(iv)(A), the property owner may ask the department to consider extenuating circumstances to adjust the value of property described in 15-23-101(2)(b) or (2)(c). Occurrences that may result in an adjustment to the value include but are not limited to extraordinary, unusual, or infrequent events that are material in nature and of a character different from the typical or customary business operations, that are not expected to recur frequently, and that are not normally considered in the evaluation of the operating results of a business, including bankruptcies, acquisitions, sales of assets, or mergers.

(b) If the objection relates to residential or commercial property and the objector agrees to the confidentiality requirements, the department shall provide to the objector, by posted mail or electronically, within 8 weeks of submission of the objection, the following information:

(i) the methodology and sources of data used by the department in the valuation of the property;

and

(ii) if the department uses a blend of evaluations developed from various sources, the reasons that the methodology was used.

(c) At the request of the objector or a representative of the objector, and only if the objector or representative signs a written or electronic confidentiality agreement, the department shall provide in written or electronic form:

(i) comparable sales data used by the department to value the property;

(ii) sales data used by the department to value residential property in the property taxpayer's

1 market model area; and

2 (iii) if the cost approach was used by the department to value residential property, the  
3 documentation required in 15-8-111(3) regarding why the comparable sales approach was not reliable.

4 (d) For properties valued using the income approach as one approximation of market value, notice  
5 must be provided that the taxpayer will be given a form to acknowledge confidentiality requirements for the  
6 receipt of all aggregate model output that the department used in the valuation model for the property.

7 (e) The review must be conducted informally and is not subject to the contested case procedures  
8 of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. As a part of the review, the department may consider the actual  
9 selling price of the property and other relevant information presented by the taxpayer in support of the  
10 taxpayer's opinion as to the market value of the property. The department shall consider an independent  
11 appraisal provided by the taxpayer if the appraisal meets standards set by the Montana board of real estate  
12 appraisers and the appraisal was completed within 6 months of the valuation date pursuant to 15-8-201. If the  
13 department does not use the appraisal provided by the taxpayer in conducting the appeal, the department shall  
14 provide to the taxpayer the reason for not using the appraisal. The department shall give reasonable notice to  
15 the taxpayer of the time and place of the review.

16 (f) After the review, the department shall determine the correct appraisal and classification of the  
17 land or improvements and notify the taxpayer of its determination by mail or electronically. The department may  
18 not determine an appraised value that is higher than the value that was the subject of the objection unless the  
19 reason for an increase was the result of a physical change in the property or caused by an error in the  
20 description of the property or data available for the property that is kept by the department and used for  
21 calculating the appraised value. In the notification, the department shall state its reasons for revising the  
22 classification or appraisal. When the proper appraisal and classification have been determined, the land must  
23 be classified and the improvements appraised in the manner ordered by the department.

24 (4) Whether a review as provided in subsection (3) is held or not, the department may not adjust  
25 an appraisal or classification upon the taxpayer's objection unless:

26 (a) the taxpayer has submitted an objection on written or electronic forms provided by the  
27 department or by checking a box on the notice; and

28 (b) the department has provided to the objector by mail or electronically its stated reason in writing

for making the adjustment.

(5) A taxpayer's written objection or objection made by checking a box on the notice and supplemental information provided by a taxpayer that elects to check a box on the notice to a classification or appraisal and the department's notification to the taxpayer of its determination and the reason for that determination are public records. The department shall make the records available for inspection during regular office hours.

(6) Except as provided in 15-2-302 and 15-23-102, if a property owner feels aggrieved by the classification or appraisal made by the department after the review provided for in subsection (3), the property owner has the right to first appeal to the county tax appeal board and then to the Montana tax appeal board, whose findings are final subject to the right of review in the courts. The appeal to the county tax appeal board, pursuant to 15-15-102, must be filed within 30 days from the date on the notice of the department's determination. A county tax appeal board or the Montana tax appeal board may consider the actual selling price of the property, independent appraisals of the property, negative property features that differentiate the subject property from the department's comparable sales, and other relevant information presented by the taxpayer as evidence of the market value of the property. If the county tax appeal board or the Montana tax appeal board determines that an adjustment should be made, the department shall adjust the base value of the property in accordance with the board's order."

**Section 3.** Section 15-16-101, MCA, is amended to read:

**"15-16-101. Treasurer to publish notice -- manner of publication.** (1) Within 10 days after the receipt of the property tax record, the county treasurer shall publish a notice specifying:

(a) that one-half of all taxes levied and assessed will be due and payable before 5 p.m. on the next November 30 or within 30 days after the notice is postmarked and that unless paid prior to that time the amount then due will be delinquent and will draw interest at the rate of 5/6 of 1% a month from the time of delinquency until paid and 2% will be added to the delinquent taxes as a penalty;

(b) that one-half of all taxes levied and assessed will be due and payable on or before 5 p.m. on the next May 31 and that unless paid prior to that time the taxes will be delinquent and will draw interest at the rate of 5/6 of 1% a month from the time of delinquency until paid and 2% will be added to the delinquent taxes

as a penalty; and

(c) the time and place at which payment of taxes may be made.

(2) (a) The county treasurer shall send to the last-known address of each taxpayer a written notice, postage prepaid, showing the amount of taxes and assessments due for the current year and the amount due and delinquent for other years. The written notice must include:

(i) the taxable value of the property;

(ii) the total mill levy applied to that taxable value;

(iii) itemized city services and special improvement district assessments collected by the county;

(iv) the number of the school district in which the property is located;

(v) the amount of the total tax due itemized by mill levy that is levied as city tax, county tax, state tax, school district tax, and other tax;

(vi) an indication of which mill levies are voted levies, including voted levies to impose a new mill levy, to increase a mill levy that is required to be submitted to the electors, or to exceed the mill levy limit provided for in 15-10-420;

(vii) except as provided in subsection (2)(c), an itemization of the taxes due for each mill levy and a comparison to the amount due for each mill levy in the prior year; and

(viii) a notice of the availability of all the property tax assistance programs available to property taxpayers, including the intangible land value assistance program provided for in 15-6-240, the property tax assistance programs under Title 15, chapter 6, part 3, and the residential property tax credit ~~for the elderly~~ under 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341.

(b) If a tax lien is attached to the property, the notice must also include, in a manner calculated to draw attention, a statement that a tax lien is attached to the property, that failure to respond will result in loss of property, and that the taxpayer may contact the county treasurer for complete information.

(c) The information required in subsection (2)(a)(vii) may be posted on the county treasurer's website instead of being included on the written notice.

(3) The municipality shall, upon request of the county treasurer, provide the information to be included under subsection (2)(a)(iii) ready for mailing.

(4) The notice in every case must be given as provided in 7-1-2121. Failure to publish or post

1 notices does not relieve the taxpayer from any tax liability. Any failure to give notice of the tax due for the  
2 current year or of delinquent tax will not affect the legality of the tax.

3 (5) If the department revises an assessment that results in an additional tax of \$5 or less, an  
4 additional tax is not owed and a new tax bill does not need to be prepared."  
5

6 **Section 4.** Section 15-17-125, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"15-17-125. Attachment of tax lien and preparation of tax lien certificate.** (1) (a) The county  
8 treasurer shall attach a tax lien no later than the first working day in August to properties on which the taxes are  
9 delinquent and for which proper notification was given as provided in 15-17-122 and subsection (4) of this  
10 section. Upon attachment of a tax lien, the county is the possessor of the tax lien unless the tax lien is assigned  
11 pursuant to 15-17-323.

12 (b) The county treasurer may not attach a tax lien to a property on which taxes are delinquent but  
13 for which proper notice was not given.

14 (2) After attaching a tax lien, the county treasurer shall prepare a tax lien certificate that must  
15 contain:

- 16 (a) the date on which the property taxes became delinquent;  
17 (b) the date on which a property tax lien was attached to the property;  
18 (c) the name and address of record of the person to whom the taxes were assessed;  
19 (d) a description of the property on which the taxes were assessed;  
20 (e) a separate listing of the amount of the delinquent taxes, penalties, interest, and costs;  
21 (f) a statement that the tax lien certificate represents a lien on the property that may lead to the  
22 issuance of a tax deed for the property;

23 (g) a statement specifying the date on which the county or an assignee will be entitled to a tax  
24 deed; and

25 (h) an identification number corresponding to the tax lien certificate.

26 (3) The tax lien certificate must be signed by the county treasurer. A copy of the tax lien certificate  
27 must be filed by the treasurer in the office of the county clerk. A copy of the tax lien certificate must also be  
28 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, 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."

**Section 5.** Section 15-30-2303, MCA, is amended to read:

**"15-30-2303. Tax credits subject to review by interim committee.** (1) The following tax credits must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2021, and during each biennium commencing 8 years thereafter:

(a) the credit for donations to innovative educational programs provided for in 15-30-2334, 15-30-3110, and 15-31-158;

(b) the credit for donations to a student scholarship organization provided for in 15-30-2335, 15-30-3111, and 15-31-159; and

(c) the adoption tax credit provided for in 15-30-2321.

(2) The following tax credits must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2023, and during each biennium commencing 8 years thereafter:

(a) the credit for infrastructure use fees provided for in 17-6-316;

(b) the credit for contributions to a qualified endowment provided for in 15-30-2327 through 15-30-2329, 15-31-161, and 15-31-162;

(c) the credit for property to recycle or manufacture using recycled material provided for in Title 15, chapter 32, part 6; and

(d) the credit for preservation of historic buildings provided for in 15-30-2342 and 15-31-151.

(3) The following tax credits must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2025, and

during each biennium commencing 8 years thereafter:

(a) the residential property tax credit ~~for the elderly~~ provided for in 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341;

(b) the credit for unlocking state lands provided for in 15-30-2380;

(c) the job growth incentive tax credit provided for in 15-30-2361 and 15-31-175; and

(d) the credit for trades education and training provided for in 15-30-2359 and 15-31-174.

(4) The following tax credits must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2027, and during each biennium commencing 8 years thereafter:

(a) the credit for hiring a registered apprentice or veteran apprentice provided for in 15-30-2357 and 15-31-173;

(b) the earned income tax credit provided for in 15-30-2318;

(c) the media production and postproduction credits provided for in 15-31-1007 and 15-31-1009; and

(d) the credit for contractor's gross receipts provided for in 15-50-207.

(5) The revenue interim committee shall review the tax credits scheduled for review and make recommendations in accordance with 5-11-210 at the conclusion of the full review to the legislature about whether to eliminate or revise the credits. The committee shall also review any tax credit with an expiration date or termination date that is not listed in this section in the biennium before the credit is scheduled to expire or terminate.

(6) The revenue interim committee shall review the credits using the following criteria:

(a) whether the credit changes taxpayer decisions, including whether the credit rewards decisions that may have been made regardless of the existence of the tax credit;

(b) to what extent the credit benefits some taxpayers at the expense of other taxpayers;

(c) whether the credit has out-of-state beneficiaries;

(d) the timing of costs and benefits of the credit and how long the credit is effective;

(e) any adverse impacts of the credit or its elimination and whether the benefits of continuance or elimination outweigh adverse impacts; and

(f) the extent to which benefits of the credit affect the larger economy. (Subsection (3)(c))

terminates December 31, 2028--sec. 4, Ch. 391, L. 2023; subsection (3)(d) terminates December 31, 2028--  
sec. 2, Ch. 576, L. 2023; subsection (1)(c) terminates December 31, 2031--sec. 6, Ch. 493, L. 2023.)"

**Section 6.** Section 15-30-2338, MCA, is amended to read:

**"15-30-2338. Residential property tax credit for elderly -- eligibility -- disallowance or  
adjustment.** (1) In order to be eligible to make a claim under 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341, an individual:

~~(a)~~ ~~must have reached age 62 or older during the claim period for which relief is sought;~~

~~(b)~~(a) must have resided in Montana for at least 9 months of ~~that the claim~~ period for which relief is  
sought;

~~(c)~~(b) must have occupied one or more dwellings in Montana as an owner, renter, or lessee for at  
least 6 months of the claim period; and

~~(d)~~(c) must have less than \$45,000 of gross household income.

(2) A person is not disqualified as a claimant if the person changes residences during the claim  
period, provided that the person occupies one or more dwellings in Montana as an owner, renter, or lessee for  
at least 6 months during the claim period.

(3) A claim is disallowed if the department finds that the claimant received title to the claimant's  
homestead primarily for the purpose of receiving benefits under 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341.

(4) When the landlord and tenant have not dealt at arm's length and the department judges the  
gross rent charged to be excessive, the department may adjust the gross rent to a reasonable amount."

**Section 7.** Section 15-30-2340, MCA, is amended to read:

**"15-30-2340. Residential property tax credit for elderly -- computation of relief.** (1) The amount  
of the tax credit granted under the provisions of 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341 is computed as ~~follows:~~  
provided in this section.

~~(1)~~(2) ~~In~~ Subject to subsections (4) and (5):

(a) ~~in~~ the case of a claimant who owns the homestead for which a claim is made, the credit is the  
amount of property tax billed less the deduction specified in subsection ~~(4)~~ (3);

~~(2)~~(b) ~~In~~ in the case of a claimant who rents the homestead for which a claim is made, the credit is



1 the amount of rent-equivalent tax paid less the deduction specified in subsection ~~(4)(3)~~; and  
 2 ~~(3)(c)~~ in the case of a claimant who both owns and rents the homestead for which a claim is made,  
 3 the credit is:  
 4 ~~(a)(i)~~ the amount of property tax billed on the owned portion of the homestead less the deduction  
 5 specified in subsection ~~(4)(3)~~; plus  
 6 ~~(b)(ii)~~ the amount of rent-equivalent tax paid on the rented portion of the homestead less the  
 7 deduction specified in subsection ~~(4)(3)~~.  
 8 ~~(4)(3)~~ Property tax billed and rent-equivalent tax paid are reduced according to the following  
 9 schedule:

Household income	Amount of reduction
\$0 - \$999	\$0
\$1,000 - \$1,999	\$0
\$2,000 - \$2,999	the product of .006 times the household income
\$3,000 - \$3,999	the product of .016 times the household income
\$4,000 - \$4,999	the product of .024 times the household income
\$5,000 - \$5,999	the product of .028 times the household income
\$6,000 - \$6,999	the product of .032 times the household income
\$7,000 - \$7,999	the product of .035 times the household income
\$8,000 - \$8,999	the product of .039 times the household income
\$9,000 - \$9,999	the product of .042 times the household income

\$10,000 - \$10,999

income

the product of .045 times the household

income

\$11,000 - \$11,999

the product of .048 times the household

income

\$12,000 ~~&~~ and over

the product of .050 times the household

income

~~(5)(4)~~ For a claimant whose household income is \$35,000 or more but less than \$45,000, the amount of the credit is equal to the credit calculated under this section multiplied by the decimal equivalent of a percentage figure according to the following table:

Gross household income

Percentage of credit allowed

\$35,000 - \$37,500

40%

\$37,501 - \$40,000

30%

\$40,001 - \$42,500

20%

\$42,501 - \$44,999

10%

\$45,000 or more

0%

(5) For a claimant who is under 62 years of age, the amount of the credit is equal to 50% of the credit calculated under this section.

(6) The credit granted may not exceed [\$1,150].

(7) Relief under 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341 is a credit against the claimant's Montana individual income tax liability for the claim period. If the amount of the credit exceeds the claimant's liability under this chapter, the amount of the excess must be refunded to the claimant. The credit may be claimed even though the claimant has no income taxable under this chapter. (Bracketed language in subsection (6) is temporarily amended to "\$1,000" on occurrence of contingency for income tax years 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 until December 31, 2025--sec. 13, Ch. 476, L. 2021.)"

**NEW SECTION. Section 8. Applicability.** [This act] applies to income tax years beginning after December 31, 2025.

1

- END -

AMEND