

\$\$\$ for 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 qualifying persons age 65 or over whose property tax (or 25% of rent) exceeds 10% of their annual gross income. You may be eligible even if you receive a property tax exemption through your city/town.

Whether or not you owe taxes, you may be eligible for **cash or a tax credit of up to \$1,150 this tax year** - *even if you did not file Massachusetts state income tax forms*. This benefit equals the amount that your property tax (plus 50% of your Water and Sewer Bill*) or 25% of your rent exceeds 10% of your income up to a maximum benefit amount that varies by year.

To obtain the benefit, you must file for the 2020 tax year beginning in January 2021.

You may also file retroactively for any benefits you could have qualified for in the past three years. **The maximum credit you may receive for tax year 2020 is \$1,150; 2019 is \$1,130; 2018 is \$1,100; and 2017 is \$1,080.** The deadline for retroactive filing for tax year 2017 is April 15, 2021.

See if you qualify:

1. You must be **Age 65** or over by the end of tax year for which you are filing.
2. Your **Income** must not exceed the following (Including Social Security, and other income not ordinarily taxed in Massachusetts.)

Income for tax year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Single	57,000	58,000	60,000	61,000
Head of household	72,000	73,000	75,000	76,000
Married, filing jointly	86,000	88,000	90,000	92,000

3. Your **primary residence**, owned or rented, must be in Massachusetts.
Public Housing and subsidized renters are not eligible.
4. The **assessed value** of your home must not be greater than:
2017 - \$747,000; **2018** - \$778,000; **2019** - \$808,000; **2020** - \$848,000
5. **Homeowners:** Your property tax plus 50% of your water and sewer bill* must exceed 10% of your income. Multi-acre property owners: only one acre plus your home count toward your qualifying assessment. Consult your local assessor to compute assessment for application.

Renters: 25% of your annual rent must exceed 10% of your gross income.

Even if you don't normally file with the state, you are most likely due a check or tax credit from the Dept. of Revenue if you meet the above criteria. *If you have an accountant, ask for help with this year and /or previous years.*

For more information or assistance filing, call your local Council on Aging at _____ or call the Mass. Department of Revenue Customer Service at 1-617-887-6367 for information and forms. Or visit <https://www.mass.gov/guides/personal-income-tax-for-residents>

* Your water and sewer bill must be separate from your property tax bill.