

HOUSE BILL 183

Introduced by Raney, et al.

1/15	Introduced
1/15	Referred to Taxation
1/15	First Reading
1/15	Fiscal Note Requested
1/21	Fiscal Note Received
1/22	Fiscal Note Printed
1/22	Hearing
2/19	Tabled in Committee

HOUSE BILL NO. 183

1 INTRODUCED BY *Rose, Haffner, Smith, ...*

2 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM FOR PERSONS 62 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER; PROVIDING STATE REIMBURSEMENT TO COUNTIES FOR PROPERTY TAXES DEFERRED UNDER THE PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM; APPROPRIATING UP TO \$1 MILLION FOR STARTUP COSTS FOR THE PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM; GRANTING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY DATE AND EFFECTIVE DATES."

STATEMENT OF INTENT

14 A statement of intent is required for this bill because [section 20] delegates rulemaking authority to the department of revenue. It is the intent of the legislature that the rules adopted by the department prescribe the forms and procedures to be used by eligible applicants and by counties seeking reimbursement. The forms and applications should be as easy to use as possible while maintaining the integrity of the program.

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

24 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 20], the following definitions apply:

1 (1) "Department" means the department of revenue. 2 (2) "Federal poverty level" means the federal poverty threshold published by the U.S. bureau of the census in its publication Characteristics of the Population Below the Poverty Level (Current Population Reports, Series P-60) and adopted annually by the department.

7 (3) "Homestead" means the owner-occupied, principal dwelling owned by the taxpayer and the land, not exceeding 1 acre, on which it is located, or property defined in 15-6-142(1)(b) regardless of whether the land on which it is situated is owned by the taxpayer. If the homestead is located in a multiunit building, the homestead is the portion of the building actually used as the principal dwelling and its percentage of the value of the common elements and of the value of the land on which it is built. The percentage attributable to the unit is the value of the unit consisting of the homestead compared to the total value of the building exclusive of the common elements, if any. The value of the land and common elements must be divided equally among the units.

21 (4) "Tax-deferred property" means the property for which taxes are deferred under [sections 1 through 20].

24 (5) "Taxes" or "property taxes" means ad valorem taxes and other assessments, fees, and charges, except an assessment for a special improvement district or a rural



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1 special improvement district, that constitute a lien against
2 the tax-deferred property and that are required to be paid
3 to the county treasurer.

4 (6) "Taxpayer" means an individual who has filed a
5 claim for deferral or individuals who have jointly filed a
6 claim for deferral under [section 2].

7 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Claim for deferral of tax on
8 homestead -- eligibility -- effect. (1) Subject to [section
9 3], a taxpayer may elect to defer the property taxes on a
10 homestead by filing a claim for deferral with the county
11 assessor between January 1 and April 15 of the first year in
12 which deferral is claimed if:

13 (a) the taxpayer is or, in the case of two or more
14 individuals filing a claim jointly, each individual is 62
15 years of age or older on April 15 of the year in which the
16 claim is filed; and

17 (b) the taxpayer has a gross household income, as
18 defined in 15-30-171, not greater than 125% of the federal
19 poverty level for the calendar year immediately preceding
20 the calendar year in which the claim is filed.

21 (2) If a guardian or conservator has been appointed for
22 a taxpayer otherwise qualified to obtain deferral of taxes
23 under [sections 1 through 20], the guardian or conservator
24 may act for the taxpayer in complying with the provisions of
25 [sections 1 through 20].

1 (3) If a trustee of an inter vivos trust that was
2 created by and is revocable by a taxpayer who is both the
3 trustor and a beneficiary of the trust and who is otherwise
4 qualified to obtain a deferral of taxes under [sections 1
5 through 20] owns the fee simple estate under a recorded
6 instrument of sale, the trustee may act for the taxpayer in
7 complying with the provisions of [sections 1 through 20].

8 (4) If the taxpayer elects to defer property taxes for
9 a year, filing a claim for deferral under subsection (1) has
10 the effect of:

11 (a) deferring the payment of the property taxes levied
12 on the homestead for the taxable year beginning in the
13 calendar year in which the claim is filed;

14 (b) continuing the deferral of the payment by the
15 taxpayer of property taxes that are deferred under [sections
16 1 through 20] for previous years and that have not become
17 delinquent under [section 11]; and

18 (c) continuing the deferral of the payment by the
19 taxpayer of future property taxes for as long as the
20 provisions of [section 3] are met.

21 (5) Nothing in this section may be construed to require
22 the spouse of an individual to file a claim jointly with the
23 individual, even though the spouse may be eligible to claim
24 the deferral jointly with the individual.

25 (6) The county assessor shall forward each claim filed

1 under subsection (1) to the department. The department shall
2 determine if the property is eligible for deferral.

3 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Property eligible for deferral
4 -- limits. (1) To qualify for tax deferral under [sections 1
5 through 20], the property must meet all of the following
6 requirements when the claim is filed and must continue to
7 meet the requirements as long as the payment of taxes by the
8 taxpayer is deferred:

9 (a) The property must be the homestead of the taxpayer
10 who files the claim for deferral, except for a taxpayer
11 required to be absent from the homestead by reason of
12 health.

13 (b) The person claiming the deferral must, by himself
14 or together with his spouse, own the fee simple estate or be
15 purchasing the fee simple estate under a recorded instrument
16 of sale, or two or more persons must together own or be
17 purchasing the fee simple estate, with rights of
18 survivorship, under a recorded instrument of sale.

19 (c) There must be no prohibition to the deferral of
20 property taxes contained in any provision of federal law,
21 rule, or regulation applicable to a mortgage, trust deed,
22 land sale contract, or conditional sale contract for which
23 the homestead is security.

24 (2) (a) Subject to the limits contained in subsections
25 (2)(b) and (2)(c), the amount of property tax deferred in

1 each year may not exceed 50% of the tax due.

2 (b) The total amount of property taxes deferred under
3 [sections 1 through 20] may not exceed 50% of the appraised
4 value of the property for which the taxes are deferred.

5 (c) The total combined amount of property taxes
6 deferred under [sections 1 through 20] plus the outstanding
7 mortgage on the property, if any, for which the taxes are
8 deferred may not exceed 90% of the appraised value of the
9 property for which the taxes are deferred.

10 (3) Property tax may not be deferred under [sections 1
11 through 20] for a homestead that is subject to a reverse
12 annuity mortgage loan under Title 90, chapter 6, part 5.

13 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Claim forms -- contents. A
14 claim for deferral under [section 2] must be in writing on a
15 form supplied by the department and must:

16 (1) describe the homestead;

17 (2) list facts establishing the eligibility for the
18 deferral under the provisions of [sections 1 through 20],
19 including facts that establish that the gross household
20 income, as defined in 15-30-171, of the taxpayer was not
21 greater than 125% of the federal poverty level for the
22 calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year in
23 which the claim is filed;

24 (3) have attached any documentary proof required by the
25 department to show that the requirements of [section 3] have

1 been met; and

2 (4) be signed and dated by the claimant. The signature
3 is considered an affidavit that the contents of the claim
4 are true.

5 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Deferral as lien --
6 foreclosure. (1) (a) The department, on behalf of the state
7 of Montana, has a lien against the tax-deferred property for
8 the payment of the deferred taxes plus interest and any fees
9 paid to the county clerk by the department in connection
10 with the recording, release, or satisfaction of the lien.

11 (b) The lien for deferred taxes attaches to the
12 property on July 1 of the year in which the taxes are
13 assessed.

14 (c) The deferred property tax lien has the same
15 priority as other real property tax liens, except that the
16 lien of mortgages or trust deeds that is recorded prior to
17 the attachment of the lien for deferred taxes is considered
18 prior to the lien for deferred taxes.

19 (2) (a) The lien may be foreclosed by the department as
20 if it were a purchase money security interest under Title
21 30, chapter 9. Reasonable attorney fees and costs may be
22 granted to the department in a suit for foreclosure of the
23 lien.

24 (b) If the receipts from a foreclosure, after allowing
25 for satisfaction of a mortgage or trust deed recorded prior

1 to the attachment of the lien for deferred taxes, are
2 insufficient to satisfy the lien for deferred taxes, the
3 receipts must be considered satisfaction of the lien for
4 deferred taxes.

5 (3) Receipts from foreclosure proceedings must be
6 credited in the same manner as other repayments of deferred
7 property taxes under [section 19].

8 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Listing of tax-deferred
9 property -- interest accrual. (1) If eligibility for
10 deferral of homestead property taxes is established as
11 provided in [sections 1 through 20], the department shall
12 notify the county assessor and the county assessor shall
13 show on the current tax roll which property is tax-deferred
14 property by an entry clearly designating the property as
15 tax-deferred property.

16 (2) The county assessor shall send to the department as
17 soon as the taxes are extended upon the roll the tax
18 statement for each tax-deferred property.

19 (3) Interest accrues on the actual amount of taxes
20 advanced to the county for the tax-deferred property at the
21 rate of 8% a year.

22 (4) For property taxes deferred after January 1, 1991,
23 the state liens are as provided by [section 5(1)(a)] and
24 recorded under [section 7].

25 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Recording liens in county --

1 recording to constitute notice of state lien. (1) In each
2 county where there is tax-deferred property, the department
3 shall record in the mortgage records of the county a list of
4 tax-deferred properties in that county. The list must
5 contain a description of the property as entered on the
6 assessment roll, together with the name of the owner.

7 (2) The recording of the tax-deferred properties under
8 subsection (1) is notice that the department claims a lien
9 against those properties in the amount provided in [section
10 5(1)(a)], even though the amount of taxes, interest, or fees
11 is not listed.

12 (3) The department is not required to pay any filing,
13 indexing, or recording fees to the county in connection with
14 the recording, release, or satisfaction of liens against
15 tax-deferred properties of that county in advance or at the
16 time entry is made.

17 NEW SECTION. Section 8. County treasurer to receive
18 amount equivalent to deferred taxes from state. (1) After
19 determining the amount of deferred taxes on tax-deferred
20 property in a county for the tax year, the department shall
21 pay to the county treasurer an amount equal to the deferred
22 taxes. Payment must be made from the account established in
23 [section 19].

24 (2) The department shall maintain accounts for each
25 deferred property and shall accrue interest only on the

1 actual amount of taxes advanced to the county.

2 NEW SECTION. Section 9. Notice to taxpayer. (1) On or
3 before December 15 of each year, the department shall send a
4 notice to each taxpayer who has claimed deferral of property
5 taxes for the current tax year. The notice must:

6 (a) inform the taxpayer that the property taxes have
7 been deferred in the current year;

8 (b) inform the taxpayer that a claim must be filed
9 annually;

10 (c) show the total amount of deferred taxes remaining
11 unpaid since initial application for deferral and the
12 interest accruing to November 15 of the current year;

13 (d) inform the taxpayer that voluntary payment of the
14 deferred taxes may be made at any time to the department;
15 and

16 (e) contain other information the department considers
17 necessary to facilitate administration of the property tax
18 deferral program.

19 (2) The department shall mail the notice required under
20 subsection (1) to the residence address of the taxpayer as
21 shown in the claim for deferral or as otherwise determined
22 by the department to be the correct address of the taxpayer.

23 NEW SECTION. Section 10. Events requiring payment of
24 deferred tax and interest. All deferred property taxes,
25 including accrued interest, become payable as provided in

1 [section 11] when:

2 (1) the taxpayer or, if there was more than one
3 claimant, the survivor of the taxpayers dies;

4 (2) the property for which property taxes were deferred
5 is sold, a contract to sell is entered into, or some person
6 other than the taxpayer who claimed the deferral becomes the
7 owner of the property;

8 (3) the tax-deferred property is no longer the
9 homestead of the taxpayer who claimed the deferral, except
10 in the case of a taxpayer required to be absent from the
11 tax-deferred property by reason of health; or

12 (4) the tax-deferred property is moved out of the
13 county or state.

14 NEW SECTION. Section 11. Time for payment --
15 delinquencies. (1) When any of the circumstances listed in
16 [section 10] occur:

17 (a) the deferral of taxes must continue for the
18 assessment year in which the circumstance occurs; and

19 (b) the amount of deferred property taxes, including
20 accrued interest, for all years is due and payable to the
21 department on August 15 of the year following the calendar
22 year in which the circumstance occurs, except as provided in
23 [section 12], [section 16], and subsection (2).

24 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of [section 16] and
25 subsection (1)(b), when the circumstance listed in [section

1 10(4)] occurs, the amount of deferred taxes is due and
2 payable 5 days before the date of removal of the property
3 from the state.

4 (3) If the amounts due are not paid on the indicated
5 due date as provided in this section or as extended under
6 [section 16], the amounts are considered delinquent as of
7 that date and the property is subject to foreclosure as
8 provided in [section 5].

9 NEW SECTION. Section 12. Election by spouse to
10 continue tax deferral -- extension of time to file claim.

11 (1) When any of the circumstances listed in [section 10(1)
12 through (3)] occur, a spouse who was not eligible to or did
13 not file a claim jointly with the taxpayer may continue the
14 property in its deferred tax status by filing a claim within
15 the time and in the manner provided under [section 2] if:

16 (a) the spouse is or will be 60 years of age or older
17 not later than 6 months from the date the circumstance
18 occurs; and

19 (b) the property is the homestead of the spouse and
20 meets the requirements of [section 3(2)].

21 (2) A spouse who does not meet the age requirements of
22 subsection (1)(a) but is otherwise qualified to continue the
23 property in its tax-deferred status under subsection (1) may
24 continue the deferral of property taxes deferred for
25 previous years by filing a claim within the time and in the

1 manner provided under [section 2]. If a spouse eligible for
 2 and continuing the deferral of taxes previously deferred
 3 under this subsection reaches 62 years of age prior to April
 4 15 of any year, the spouse may elect to continue the
 5 deferral of previous years' taxes deferred under this
 6 subsection and may elect to defer the current assessment
 7 year's taxes on the homestead by filing a claim within the
 8 time and in the manner provided under [section 2]. Payment
 9 of the taxes levied on the homestead and deferred under this
 10 subsection and payment of taxes levied on the homestead in
 11 the current assessment year and in future years may be
 12 deferred in the manner provided in and subject to the
 13 provisions of [sections 1 through 20].

14 (3) Notwithstanding that [section 2] requires a claim
 15 to be filed no later than April 15, if the department
 16 determines that good and sufficient cause exists for the
 17 failure of a spouse to file a claim under this section on or
 18 before April 15, the claim may be filed within 180 days
 19 after the taxes are due and payable under [section 11].

20 NEW SECTION. **Section 13.** Payment of deferred taxes and
 21 interest. (1) All payments of deferred taxes must be made to
 22 the department.

23 (2) Subject to subsection (3), all or part of the
 24 deferred taxes and accrued interest may at any time be paid
 25 to the department by:

1 (a) the taxpayer; or
 2 (b) any person having or claiming a legal or equitable
 3 interest in the property.

4 (3) A person referred to in subsection (2)(b) may make
 5 payments of deferred taxes and accrued interest only if no
 6 objection is made by the taxpayer within 30 days after the
 7 department deposits in the mail a notice to the taxpayer
 8 that payment has been tendered.

9 (4) A payment made under this section must be applied
 10 first against accrued interest and any remainder against the
 11 deferred taxes. The payment does not affect the deferred tax
 12 status of the property. Unless otherwise provided by law,
 13 the payment does not give the person paying the taxes an
 14 interest in the property or a claim against the estate, in
 15 the absence of a valid agreement to the contrary.

16 (5) When the deferred taxes and accrued interest are
 17 paid in full and the property is no longer subject to tax
 18 deferral, the department shall prepare and record in the
 19 county where the property is located a satisfaction of
 20 deferred property tax lien.

21 NEW SECTION. **Section 14.** Taxes unpaid before deferral
 22 as lien -- effect on foreclosure -- exceptions. (1)
 23 Notwithstanding the provisions of [section 17], upon
 24 compliance with [section 15], taxes not in excess of \$1,000
 25 assessed against a tax-deferred homestead for a tax year

1 beginning on or after January 1, 1991, that were unpaid as
 2 of July 1 of the tax year for which homestead property tax
 3 deferral was initially granted under [sections 1 through 20]
 4 and that remain unpaid remain a lien and become delinquent
 5 as otherwise provided by law but are not subject to
 6 foreclosure until August 15 of the calendar year following
 7 the calendar year in which any of the circumstances listed
 8 in [section 10] occur.

9 (2) This section does not apply if:

10 (a) the tax-deferred homestead property is moved out of
 11 the county or state;

12 (b) the tax-deferred homestead property is personal
 13 property; or

14 (c) the owner of the tax-deferred homestead property
 15 has a gross household income exceeding 125% of the federal
 16 poverty level for the calendar year immediately preceding
 17 the calendar year in which application is filed under
 18 [section 15].

19 (3) If the property to which subsection (1) applies has
 20 been included on a foreclosure list or if a decree of
 21 foreclosure has been entered and taxes in excess of \$1,000
 22 assessed against the property for the earliest year are
 23 paid, the property must be removed from the foreclosure list
 24 or the decree must be vacated unless the proceeding against
 25 the property involves delinquent taxes other than those

1 described in subsection (1).

2 (4) Upon removal of the property from the foreclosure
 3 list or vacation of the decree, a penalty may not be
 4 imposed. The penalty is abated or, if the penalty has been
 5 paid, upon application to the county assessor on or before
 6 July 1 of the year immediately following the year of
 7 vacation or removal, the penalty must be refunded out of the
 8 county general fund.

9 (5) Within 60 days after approval of an application
 10 under [section 15] with respect to any property to which
 11 this section applies, the county assessor shall make the
 12 proper entries on the tax roll and remove the property from
 13 the foreclosure list and proceeding.

14 (6) If a decree has been entered foreclosing liens for
 15 delinquent taxes against property that is the subject of an
 16 application filed under [section 15] and if the delinquent
 17 taxes include only those taxes described in subsection (1)
 18 or if taxes in excess of those described in subsection (1)
 19 are paid, the decree is void and the county treasurer shall
 20 make the proper entries on the tax rolls to reflect the
 21 vacation of the decree and to acknowledge the subsisting
 22 liens.

23 (7) Nothing in this section removes or releases
 24 property to which this section applies from the tax lien.
 25 The unpaid taxes remain valid and subsisting liens as though

1 the foreclosure proceeding had not been instituted or as
2 though the foreclosure proceeding had not been instituted
3 and a decree entered.

4 (8) Nothing in this section affects a foreclosure
5 proceeding instituted or a decree entered to foreclose liens
6 for delinquent taxes against properties subject to
7 foreclosure if the delinquent taxes include taxes other than
8 those described under subsection (1). The foreclosure
9 proceedings must be instituted or continued without regard
10 to this section, and a foreclosure decree has full force.

11 (9) Interest on taxes to which this section applies
12 must be determined from the same dates, in the same manner,
13 and until paid as for other property taxes remaining unpaid
14 upon the due dates in accordance with subsection (1) and
15 upon entry and following a decree of foreclosure.

16 NEW SECTION. Section 15. Application to delay
17 foreclosure -- effect of denial -- appeal. (1) The owner of
18 tax-deferred homestead property desiring delay in
19 foreclosure on account of delinquent taxes, as provided in
20 [section 14], shall make application for the delay to the
21 county assessor prior to the date the period of redemption
22 expires. The application must contain or be accompanied by a
23 verified statement of gross household income, as defined in
24 15-30-171, of the owner for the calendar year immediately
25 preceding the calendar year in which the application is

1 made.

2 (2) Upon receipt of an application under subsection
3 (1), the county assessor shall approve or deny the
4 application. If the application is denied, the owner may
5 appeal to the county tax appeal board in the county where
6 the tax-deferred homestead property is located within 90
7 days after notice in writing of the denial is mailed to the
8 owner by the county assessor. A decision of the county tax
9 appeal board may be appealed to the district court within
10 the time and in the manner provided under Title 15, chapter
11 2, part 3.

12 NEW SECTION. Section 16. Extension of time for payment
13 upon death of claimant or spouse. (1) If the taxpayer who
14 claimed a homestead property tax deferral dies or if a
15 spouse who continued the deferral under [section 12] dies,
16 the department may extend the time for payment of the
17 deferred taxes and accrued interest with respect to the
18 taxes becoming due and payable under [section 11] if:

19 (a) the homestead property becomes the property of an
20 individual or individuals:

21 (i) by inheritance or devise; or
22 (ii) if the individual or individuals are heirs or
23 devisees in the course of settlement of the estate;

24 (b) the individual or individuals commence occupancy of
25 the property as a principal residence on or before August 15

1 of the calendar year following the calendar year of death;
2 and

3 (c) the individual or individuals make application to
4 the department for an extension of time for payment of the
5 deferred taxes and interest prior to August 15 of the
6 calendar year following the calendar year of death.

7 (2) (a) Subject to subsection (2)(b), an extension
8 granted under this section may be for a period not to exceed
9 6 years after August 15 of the calendar year of death. The
10 terms and conditions under which the extension is granted
11 must be in accordance with a written agreement entered into
12 by the department and the individual or individuals.

13 (b) An extension granted under this section terminates
14 immediately if:

15 (i) the homestead property is sold or otherwise
16 transferred by any party to the extension agreement;

17 (ii) all of the heirs or devisees who are parties to the
18 extension agreement cease to occupy the property as a
19 principal residence; or

20 (iii) the homestead property is moved out of the county
21 or state.

22 (3) If the department has reason to believe that the
23 homestead property is not sufficient security for the
24 deferred taxes and interest, the department may require the
25 individual or individuals to furnish a bond conditioned upon

1 payment of the amount extended in accordance with the terms
2 of the extension. The bond may not exceed an amount double
3 the taxes for which tax extension is granted.

4 (4) During the period of extension and until paid, the
5 deferred taxes continue to accrue interest in the same
6 manner and at the same rate as provided under [section 6].
7 Interest does not accrue on interest.

8 NEW SECTION. Section 17. Limitations. Nothing in
9 [sections 1 through 20] is intended to or may be construed
10 to:

11 (1) prevent the collection, by foreclosure, of property
12 taxes that become a lien against tax-deferred property; or

13 (2) affect any provision of a mortgage or other
14 instrument relating to land and requiring a person to pay
15 property taxes.

16 NEW SECTION. Section 18. Deed or contract clauses
17 preventing application for deferral prohibited. After [the
18 effective date of this section], it is unlawful for any
19 mortgage trust deed or land sale contract to contain a
20 clause or statement prohibiting the owner from applying for
21 the benefits of the deferral of homestead property taxes
22 provided in [sections 1 through 20]. A clause or statement
23 in a mortgage trust deed or land sale contract executed
24 after [the effective date of this section] in violation of
25 this section is void.

1 NEW SECTION. Section 19. Senior property tax deferral
 2 account. (1) There is an account in the state special
 3 revenue fund to be used by the department for the purpose of
 4 making payments of deferred property taxes to county
 5 treasurers.

6 (2) After paying back the appropriation from the
 7 general fund plus interest at 8% a year, all sums received
 8 by the department under [sections 1 through 20] as repayment
 9 of deferred property taxes must, upon receipt by the
 10 department, be credited to the account established in
 11 subsection (1) for the purpose of making payments of
 12 deferred property taxes to county treasurers.

13 NEW SECTION. Section 20. Rulemaking authority. The
 14 department may make rules necessary to effectively
 15 administer the provisions of [sections 1 through 20].

16 NEW SECTION. Section 21. Appropriation -- payback. (1)
 17 There is appropriated from the general fund to the account
 18 established in [section 19] up to \$1 million for the purpose
 19 of making payments of deferred property taxes to county
 20 treasurers.

21 (2) The department, pursuant to [section 19], shall
 22 deposit repayments of deferred property taxes to the general
 23 fund until the amount actually spent plus interest at 8% per
 24 year is repaid to the general fund.

25 NEW SECTION. Section 22. Codification instruction.

1 [Sections 1 through 20] are intended to be codified as an
 2 integral part of Title 15, chapter 16, and the provisions of
 3 Title 15 apply to [sections 1 through 20].

4 NEW SECTION. Section 23. Applicability. [This act]
 5 applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1991.

6 NEW SECTION. Section 24. Effective dates. (1)
 7 [Sections 20, 23, and this section] are effective on passage
 8 and approval.

9 (2) [Section 21] is effective July 1, 1991.

-End-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for HB0183, as introduced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act establishing a property tax deferral program for persons 62 years of age or older; providing state reimbursement to counties for property taxes deferred under the property tax deferral program; appropriating up to \$1 million for startup costs for the property tax deferral program; granting rule-making authority to the Department of Revenue; and providing an applicability date and effective dates.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Currently, approximately 3,445 households with a household income of less than 125% of the poverty level are receiving benefits under the low-income property-tax relief program provided under MCA 15-6-134 (Department of Revenue).
2. A maximum of 10% (345) of these households will participate in the proposed deferral program. (The highest participation rate of other states' deferral programs is 6% of the eligible population (Oregon) - NCSL survey).
3. Average property tax on these residences is \$261 (after low-income property tax relief).
4. The state will pay 97% of the total deferred property taxes.
5. All assumed participating households (345) will defer the entire 50% of property taxes due allowed under the proposed legislation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Expenditures:

	<u>FY '92</u>			<u>FY '93</u>		
	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Proposed Law</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Current Law</u>	<u>Proposed Law</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Property Tax Deferral Account (02)	0	44,000	44,000	0	44,000	44,000
<u>Administrative Costs:</u>						
F.T.E.		1.50	1.50		1.00	1.00
Personal Services	0	84,963	84,963	0	25,423	25,423
Equipment	0	2,700	2,700	0	0	0
Operating Expenses	0	22,735	22,735	0	3,235	3,235
Total	0	110,398	110,398	0	28,658	28,658
<u>Funding:</u>						
General Fund	0	110,398	110,398	0	28,658	28,658

(continued page 2)

Rod Sundsted 1-19-91

ROD SUNDSTED, BUDGET DIRECTOR DATE
Office of Budget and Program Planning

BOB RANEY, PRIMARY SPONSOR DATE

Fiscal Note for HB0183, as introduced

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Expenditures from the property tax deferral account are covered through an up to \$1,000,000 general fund appropriation. Administrative costs shown above are not included in the \$1,000,000 appropriation.

An additional 1.50 FTE (grade 15/2) would be required for software/system development during FY 1992. A permanent 1.00 FTE (grade 13/2) would be required for program administration. The \$ 2,700 in equipment cost is a one-time expense to purchase a work station for program administration.

Under the proposed legislation, the Department of Revenue is allowed to retain 3% of the amount of deferred property taxes to administer the program. This would only amount to approximately \$ 1,320 annually.

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

The impact on county revenues and expenditures would be minimal. The deferred property taxes are reimbursed to counties annually by the state. Also, responsibility for administering the program lies with the Department of Revenue.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

The proposed legislation requires that the payment of all deferred property taxes is to be deposited into the general fund until the original \$ 1,000,000 appropriation plus 8% accrued interest is repaid. However, it is not possible to continue to provide the proposed deferrals to taxpayers and replenish the general fund simultaneously. There must always be some "capital" in the deferral fund in order to pay county treasurers for new tax deferrals.

Taxpayers taking advantage of the deferral under the proposed legislation would not be able to claim the entire amount of the Elderly Renter/Homeowner Income Tax Credit. Depending upon the extent of individual property tax deferrals, the effect would be an increase to those individuals income tax liability as well as state income tax revenues.