

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES -- TAX
DEFERRAL PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representatives Cotter, Chippendale, Speakman, Spears, Santucci,
Casimiro, Kazarian, Caldwell, Kislak, and Read

Date Introduced: February 06, 2026

Referred To: House Municipal Government & Housing

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 44-5 of the General Laws entitled "Levy and Assessment of Local
Taxes" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

**44-5-20.13.2. Statewide deferment of payment of tax for qualified senior citizens,
disabled citizens and disabled veterans.**

(a) The payment of property taxes on a single-family dwelling, including manufactured
homes, owned and occupied by a senior citizen, disabled citizen or disabled veteran may be
deferred until the property is disposed by reason of death of all qualified owners, or by reason of
transfer or conveyance; provided however, that any taxes so deferred shall constitute a lien against
the real estate. Interest, in an amount of six percent (6%) annually, shall accrue during said deferral
period and shall be added to the final tax bill. The city or town shall file a written notice of the lien
in its land evidence records.

(b) For the purposes of this section the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Senior citizen" means any resident who is sixty-two (62) years of age or older.

(2) "Disabled citizen" means a resident who has been determined to be totally disabled by
the United States Social Security Administration.

(3) "Disabled veteran" means a resident who is a veteran, and has been determined to be
totally disabled by the United States Veterans Administration.

(c)(1) Single-family dwellings including manufactured homes, with reverse mortgages,

1 shall not be eligible for the deferment of property taxes.

2 (2) Single-family dwellings including manufactured homes with less than twenty percent
3 (20%) equity in the home shall not be eligible for this deferment of property taxes.

4 (d) The State of Rhode Island general treasurer's office shall have authority to establish the
5 requirements, and application and/or verification procedures for municipalities to avail themselves
6 of the benefit of the deferment provided in this section.

7 (e) If, following the granting of a deferral, a tax assessor determines that an owner who
8 applied and was granted a deferral of property taxes did not file the claim in good faith, the owner
9 shall be assessed a delinquency penalty for the nonpayment of the deferred taxes.

10 (f) The tax collector of each city or town shall certify to the director of finance on or before
11 the end of business on January 31, the total amount of supplemental roll property tax deferral claims
12 submitted pursuant to this section.

13 (g) This section does not apply to property taxes paid through escrow accounts.

14 (h) For the fiscal year 2027 and thereafter, the State of Rhode Island shall appropriate two
15 million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the purpose of funding the deferments provided in this section.

16 (i) The funds appropriated under this section shall be administered by the office of the
17 general treasurer.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO TAXATION -- LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES -- TAX
DEFERRAL PROGRAM

- 1 This act would establish a property tax deferral program for senior citizens, disabled
2 persons or veterans.
3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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