

2026 -- S 3262

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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A N A C T

RELATING TO TAXATION-PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- GLOCESTER --  
EXEMPTION OF ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS

Introduced By: Senator Jessica de la Cruz

Date Introduced: May 05, 2026

Referred To: Senate Housing & Municipal Government

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 44-3-13.5 of the General Laws in Chapter 44-3 entitled "Property  
2 Subject to Taxation" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **44-3-13.5. Gloucester — Exemption of elderly and disabled persons.**

4           (a) ~~The town council of Gloucester may, by ordinance, issue a tax credit for real property~~  
5 ~~situated in the town of Gloucester which is owned and occupied by owners over sixty five (65) years~~  
6 ~~of age or under sixty five (65) years of age who are permanently disabled in an amount of one~~  
7 ~~thousand one hundred fifty dollars (\$1,150) adjusted annually by the rate of the annual tax increase,~~  
8 ~~if any, times the per one thousand dollar (\$1,000) average valuation of the exempted real properties~~  
9 ~~and in like manner may also by ordinance issue a tax credit for real property situated in the town~~  
10 ~~which is owned and occupied by owners with a combined adjusted gross taxable annual income~~  
11 ~~not to exceed twenty three thousand dollars (\$23,000) adjusted annually by the consumer price~~  
12 ~~index — all urban customers (CPI-U) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United~~  
13 ~~States Department of Labor as set forth in the following schedule:~~

14           ~~(1) Owners who are sixty five (65) but less than eighty (80) years of age: — an additional~~  
15 ~~tax credit not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500);~~

16           ~~(2) Owners who are eighty (80) years of age or older: — an additional tax credit not to~~  
17 ~~exceed four thousand five hundred (\$4,500).~~

18           (b) ~~The exemption shall be pro-rated among the owners of the real property and shall be in~~

~~1 addition to any and all other exemptions from taxation to which the person may be otherwise  
2 entitled. The exemption shall be applied uniformly. Only one exemption shall be granted to co-  
3 tenants, joint tenants, and tenants by the entirety, even though all of the co-tenants, joint tenants,  
4 and tenants by the entirety are eligible for an exemption. The provisions of this section apply  
5 notwithstanding the provisions of § 44-3-15.~~

6 The town council of the town of Gloucester may, by ordinance, provide for exemptions or  
7 tax credits for real property situated in the town and owned and occupied by qualified persons as  
8 follows:

9 (1) A base exemption for real property owned and occupied by persons sixty-five (65) years  
10 of age or older, or under sixty-five (65) years of age who are permanently disabled, in an amount  
11 not to exceed two thousand seventy dollars (\$2,070), which amount shall be adjusted annually by  
12 the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) published by the Bureau of Labor  
13 Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.

14 (2) An additional exemption for real property owned and occupied by persons eighty (80)  
15 years of age or older who owned and occupied the subject property for such period as may be  
16 established by ordinance, in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), which amount  
17 may be adjusted by ordinance.

18 (3) A minimum tax provision requiring that any qualified owner-occupant receiving an  
19 exemption under this section shall pay not less than the minimum annual tax amount as may be  
20 established by ordinance.

21 (4) A variable income exemption for qualified owner-occupants who received such  
22 exemption prior to a date established by ordinance, which:

23 (i) Shall apply to real property owned and occupied by persons whose combined adjusted  
24 gross taxable household income does not exceed an amount established by ordinance;

25 (ii) May exclude social security benefits from income calculations, as provided by  
26 ordinance;

27 (iii) Shall be administered at the rate and level in effect as of a date certain established by  
28 ordinance; and

29 (iv) Shall require annual verification of income eligibility.

30 (5) The income eligibility threshold applicable to the variable income exemption  
31 authorized in subsection (a)(4) of this section may be adjusted annually in accordance with the  
32 percentage change in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U), or a regional  
33 variant thereof, as specified by ordinance.

34 (6) No income limitation shall apply to exemptions granted under subsections (a)(1) and

1 (a)(2) of this section for applicants qualifying after the date established by ordinance.

2 (b) For purposes of this section, any adjustment based on the consumer price index shall  
3 be calculated using a non-compounded methodology, whereby each annual percentage change in  
4 the CPI-U is applied solely to the original base amount specified in this section and shall not be  
5 applied to any amount as previously adjusted.

6 (c) The town council may, by ordinance, establish eligibility requirements including, but  
7 not limited to:

8 (1) Proof of age;

9 (2) Proof of ownership and occupancy;

10 (3) Proof of legal domicile within the town;

11 (4) Proof of disability, including certification by a licensed physician;

12 (5) Application procedures, deadlines, and forms; and

13 (6) Documentation requirements for income verification under any variable income  
14 exemption.

15 (d) The exemptions shall be prorated among the owners of the real property and shall be in  
16 addition to all other exemptions from taxation to which the person may be otherwise entitled. The  
17 exemptions shall be applied uniformly. Only one exemption shall be granted to co-tenants, joint  
18 tenants, or tenants by the entirety, even though more than one owner may be eligible.

19 (e) The provisions of this section shall apply notwithstanding the provisions of § 44-3-15.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO TAXATION-PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION -- GLOCESTER --  
EXEMPTION OF ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS

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1           This act would amend the current statute governing exemptions from property taxes for  
2 elderly and the disabled in the town of Gloucester to authorize the town council's proposed addition  
3 of a non-compounding CPI adjustment without an income qualification; and would align the town's  
4 existing ordinance framework with what is expressly permitted under state law.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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