

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

## **An Act To Provide Information to Property Tax Payers**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §507**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. HHH, §2 and affected by §10, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

### **§ 507. Taxpayer information**

A municipality that issues a property tax bill to a taxpayer must issue the following information in a form determined by the State Tax Assessor.

**1. Reductions to tax.** The property tax bill must contain a statement or calculation that demonstrates the amount or percentage by which the taxpayer's tax has been reduced by the distribution of state-municipal revenue sharing, state reimbursement for the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption and state aid for education. The State Tax Assessor shall annually provide each municipality with the amount of state-municipal revenue sharing and state aid for education subject to identification under this section.

**2. Homestead assessment and exemption amount.** The property tax bill must contain a statement of the assessed value of a homestead, before and after the calculation of a Maine resident homestead property tax exemption, and the amount of the exemption applied to the homestead.

**3. Distribution to education and government.** The property tax bill must indicate the percentage of property taxes distributed to education and local, county and state government.

**4. Indebtedness.** The property tax bill must indicate the outstanding bonded indebtedness of the issuing municipality as of the date the bill is issued.

**5. Due date and interest.** Each property tax bill issued by a municipality must clearly state the date interest will begin to accrue on delinquent taxes.

**Sec. 2. Standard form of property tax bill.** No later than October 15, 2007, the State Tax Assessor shall determine a standardized form for the property tax bill provided to taxpayers pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 507 and provide this form to all entities that issue property tax bills.

**Sec. 3. Application.** That section of this Act that repeals and replaces the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 507 applies to property tax bills issued for property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2008.

## **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the State Tax Assessor to determine a standardized form for property tax bills issued by municipalities and provide this form to municipalities. The form must include the following information:

1. The amount or percentage by which the taxpayer's tax has been reduced by the distribution of state-municipal revenue sharing, state reimbursement for the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption and state aid for education;
2. The assessed value of a homestead, before and after the calculation of a Maine resident homestead property tax exemption, and the amount of the exemption applied to the homestead;
3. The percentage of property taxes distributed to education and local, county and state government;
4. The outstanding bonded indebtedness of the issuing municipality; and
5. The date interest begins to accrue.