



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 136

LR 474(01)

An Act To Connect Benefits Provided under the Circuitbreaker Program with the Payment of Property Taxes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Rep. Hayes of Buckfield

Committee: Taxation

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

State Mandate - Unfunded

Current biennium cost increase - General Fund

State Mandates

Required Activity

Municipalities will incur administrative costs to track and process checks to circuitbreaker claimants who owe outstanding property taxes and who receive more in a circuitbreaker benefit than what is owed.

Unit Affected

Municipality

Local Cost

Insignificant statewide

The required local activities in this bill may represent a State mandate pursuant to the Constitution of Maine. Unless General Fund appropriations are provided to fund at least 90% of the additional costs or a Mandate Preamble is amended to the bill and two-thirds of the members of each House vote to exempt this mandate from the funding requirement, municipalities may not be required to implement these changes.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Maine Revenue Services indicates it will require additional appropriations of between \$90,000 to \$130,000 annually to coordinate and track the issuance of joint circuitbreaker benefits to claimants and the municipality to which property taxes are owed. Costs include a Tax Examiner position, printing municipal code tables in application books, mailing paper checks and developing a database to track benefits issued to claimants and municipalities.