

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2489**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*James K. Hawkins and David F. DeCoste*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to provide municipalities with the option to freeze residential tax rate or valuation for the elderly with means tested criteria.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>	<i>18th Worcester</i>
<i>Lenny Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>

<i>Frank A. Moran</i>	<i>17th Essex</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>
<i>Shaunna L. O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Alan Silvia</i>	<i>7th Bristol</i>
<i>Andres X. Vargas</i>	<i>3rd Essex</i>
<i>RoseLee Vincent</i>	<i>16th Suffolk</i>
<i>Donald H. Wong</i>	<i>9th Essex</i>
<i>Paul R. Feeney</i>	<i>Bristol and Norfolk</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2489**

By Messrs. Hawkins of Attleboro and DeCoste of Norwell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2489) of James K. Hawkins and others for legislation to provide municipalities with the option to freeze residential tax rate or valuation for the elderly with means tested criteria. Revenue.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act to provide municipalities with the option to freeze residential tax rate or valuation for the elderly with means tested criteria.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           - The city or town councils of the various cities and towns of the Commonwealth may  
2 provide, by ordinance, for the freezing of the rate and valuation of taxes on real income from all  
3 sources in excess of a figure as determined by the city council of the various cities and towns, to  
4 any person who is of the requisite age or older or to any person who is totally and permanently  
5 disabled, regardless of age and who does not have income from all sources in excess of a figure  
6 as determined by the city council of the various cities and towns; and provided, further, that the  
7 exemption is not allowed unless the person entitled to it has presented to the assessors, on or  
8 before the last day on which sworn statements may be filed with the assessors for the year for  
9 which the tax freeze is claimed, or for taxes assessed, evidence that he or she is entitled, which  
10 evidence shall stand as long as his or her legal residence remains unchanged.

11            -The board of assessors may deny an application for a freeze of tax or rate or valuation if  
12 they find the applicant has excessive assets that place them outside of the intended recipients of  
13 the senior exemption created by the legislative body of a municipality. A real property shall  
14 qualify if all of the following criteria are met: (1) A maximum valuation of real property as  
15 determined by assessor; (2) the real property is owned and occupied by the applicant or joint  
16 applicants as their domicile; (3) the applicant or at least 1 of the joint applicants has been  
17 domiciled in the city or town for at least 10 consecutive years before filing an application for the  
18 exemption; (4) Income and assets of the applicant or joint applicant is not in excess of the  
19 parameter as determined by the legislative body of the city or town in which the applicant is  
20 applying; (5) The real property owned by a single applicant is of the requisite age determined by  
21 the legislative body of the city or town or older at the close of the previous year or jointly by  
22 persons either of whom have reached the required age or above at the close of the previous year  
23 and if the joint applicant is 65 years of age or older;

24            -The exemptions shall be in addition to any other exemption provided by law, and  
25 provided, further, that the real estate is not taken from the tax rolls and is subject to the bonded  
26 indebtedness of the city or town.