

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

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act To Improve the Circuitbreaker Program'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

'**Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §6208**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 516, §§3 and 6, is amended to read:

**§ 6208. Elderly option**

If a claimant representing an elderly household would qualify for a larger benefit under section 6207 than ~~the claimant~~ would receive under section 6206, then that claimant may choose to receive the benefit calculated under section 6207. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the benefit calculated under section 6207 may not be reduced to less than 100% of the amount determined under section 6207, subsection 1 if the claimant represents an elderly household with at least one member who has attained 65 years of age.

**Sec. 2. Application.** This Act applies to claims for benefits under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program filed for application periods that begin on or after August 1, 2011.'

**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill. It prohibits a reduction in benefit under the Circuitbreaker Program to an elderly household claimant with a household member who has attained 65 years of age and chooses the nonelderly household benefit calculation. The benefit for claimants meeting these criteria may not be reduced below 100%. The amendment retains the emergency provisions from the bill.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

**(See attached)**