

1 _____ BILL NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT;
5 PROVIDING THAT THE CREDIT IS AVAILABLE TO TAXPAYERS OF ALL AGES; INCREASING THE
6 MAXIMUM CREDIT AMOUNT; REVISING THE INCOME LEVELS AT WHICH THE CREDIT PHASES OUT;
7 PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-6-201, 15-7-102, 15-16-101, 15-17-125,
8 15-30-2303, 15-30-2338, AND 15-30-2340, MCA; AMENDING SECTIONS 11 AND 12, CHAPTER 476, LAWS
9 OF 2021; REPEALING SECTIONS 9 AND 10, CHAPTER 476, LAWS OF 2021; AND PROVIDING AN
10 IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

11

12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

13

14 **Section 1.** Section 15-6-201, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"15-6-201. Governmental, charitable, and educational categories -- exempt property.** (1) The
16 following categories of property are exempt from taxation:

17 (a) except as provided in 15-24-1203, the property of:

18 (i) the United States, except:

19 (A) if congress passes legislation that allows the state to tax property owned by the federal
20 government or an agency created by congress; or

21 (B) as provided in 15-24-1103;

22 (ii) the state, counties, cities, towns, and school districts;

23 (iii) irrigation districts organized under the laws of Montana and not operated for gain or profit;

24 (iv) municipal corporations;

25 (v) public libraries;

26 (vi) rural fire districts and other entities providing fire protection under Title 7, chapter 33;

27 (vii) special districts created pursuant to Title 7, chapter 11, part 10; and

28 (viii) subject to subsection (2), federally recognized Indian tribes in the state if the property is located

1 entirely within the exterior boundaries of the reservation of the tribe that owns the property and the property is
2 used exclusively by the tribe for essential government services. Essential government services are tribal
3 government administration, fire, police, public health, education, recreation, sewer, water, pollution control,
4 public transit, and public parks and recreational facilities.

5 (b) buildings and furnishings in the buildings that are owned by a church and used for actual
6 religious worship or for residences of the clergy, not to exceed one residence for each member of the clergy,
7 together with the land that the buildings occupy and adjacent land reasonably necessary for convenient use of
8 the buildings, which must be identified in the application, and all land and improvements used for educational or
9 youth recreational activities if the facilities are generally available for use by the general public but may not
10 exceed 15 acres for a church or 1 acre for a clergy residence after subtracting any area required by zoning,
11 building codes, or subdivision requirements;

12 (c) land and improvements upon the land, not to exceed 15 acres, owned by a federally
13 recognized Indian tribe when the land has been set aside by tribal resolution and designated as sacred land to
14 be used exclusively for religious purposes;

15 (d) property owned and used exclusively for agricultural and horticultural societies not operated for
16 gain or profit;

17 (e) property, not to exceed 80 acres, which must be legally described in the application for the
18 exemption, used exclusively for educational purposes, including dormitories and food service buildings for the
19 use of students in attendance and other structures necessary for the operation and maintenance of an
20 educational institution that:

21 (i) is not operated for gain or profit;

22 (ii) has an attendance policy; and

23 (iii) has a definable curriculum with systematic instruction;

24 (f) property, of any acreage, owned by a tribal corporation created for the sole purpose of
25 establishing schools, colleges, and universities if the property meets the requirements of subsection (1)(e);

26 (g) property used exclusively for nonprofit health care facilities, as defined in 50-5-101, licensed by
27 the department of public health and human services and organized under Title 35, chapter 2 or 3. A health care
28 facility that is not licensed by the department of public health and human services and organized under Title 35,

1 chapter 2 or 3, is not exempt.

2 (h) property that is:

3 (i) (A) owned and held by an association or corporation organized under Title 35, chapter 2, 3, 20,
4 or 21; or

5 (B) owned by a federally recognized Indian tribe within the state and set aside by tribal resolution;
6 and

7 (ii) devoted exclusively to use in connection with a cemetery or cemeteries for which a permanent
8 care and improvement fund has been established as provided for in Title 35, chapter 20, part 3; and

9 (iii) not maintained and not operated for gain or profit;

10 (i) subject to subsection (2), property that is owned or property that is leased from a federal, state,
11 or local governmental entity by institutions of purely public charity if the property is directly used for purely
12 public charitable purposes;

13 (j) evidence of debt secured by mortgages of record upon real or personal property in the state of
14 Montana;

15 (k) public museums, art galleries, zoos, and observatories that are not operated for gain or profit;

16 (l) motor vehicles, land, fixtures, buildings, and improvements owned by a cooperative association
17 or nonprofit corporation organized to furnish potable water to its members or customers for uses other than the
18 irrigation of agricultural land;

19 (m) the right of entry that is a property right reserved in land or received by mesne conveyance
20 (exclusive of leasehold interests), devise, or succession to enter land with a surface title that is held by another
21 to explore, prospect, or dig for oil, gas, coal, or minerals;

22 (n) (i) property that is owned and used by a corporation or association organized and operated
23 exclusively for the care of persons with developmental disabilities, persons with mental illness, or persons with
24 physical or mental impairments that constitute or result in substantial impediments to employment and that is
25 not operated for gain or profit; and

26 (ii) subject to subsection (2)(e), property that is owned and used by an organization owning and
27 operating facilities that are for the care of the retired, aged, or chronically ill and that are not operated for gain or
28 profit;

(o) property owned by a nonprofit corporation that is organized to provide facilities primarily for training and practice for or competition in international sports and athletic events and that is not held or used for private or corporate gain or profit. For purposes of this subsection (1)(o), "nonprofit corporation" means an organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and incorporated and admitted under the Montana Nonprofit Corporation Act.

(p) property rented or leased to a municipality or taxing unit for less than \$100 a year and that is used for public park, recreation, or landscape beautification purposes. For the purposes of this subsection (1)(p), "property" includes land but does not include buildings. The exemption must be applied for by the municipality or taxing unit, and not more than 10 acres within the municipality or taxing unit may be exempted.

(2) (a) (i) For the purposes of tribal property under subsection (1)(a)(viii), the property subject to exemption may not be:

(A) operated for gain or profit;

(B) held under contract to operate, lease, or sell by a taxable individual;

(C) used or possessed exclusively by a taxable individual or entity; or

(D) held by a tribal corporation except for educational purposes as provided in subsection (1)(f).

(ii) For the purposes of parks and recreational facilities under subsection (1)(a)(viii), the property must be:

(A) set aside by tribal resolution and designated as park land, not to exceed 640 acres, or be designated as a recreational facility; and

(B) open to the general public.

(b) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), the term "clergy" means, as recognized under the federal Internal Revenue Code:

(i) an ordained minister, priest, or rabbi;

(ii) a commissioned or licensed minister of a church or church denomination that ordains ministers if the person has the authority to perform substantially all the religious duties of the church or denomination;

(iii) a member of a religious order who has taken a vow of poverty; or

(iv) a Christian Science practitioner.

(c) For the purposes of subsection (1)(i):

1 (i) the term "institutions of purely public charity" includes any organization that meets the following
2 requirements:

3 (A) The organization offers its charitable goods or services to persons without regard to race,
4 religion, creed, or gender and qualifies as a tax-exempt organization under the provisions of section 501(c)(3),
5 Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

6 (B) The organization accomplishes its activities through absolute gratuity or grants. However, the
7 organization may solicit or raise funds by the sale of merchandise, memberships, or tickets to public
8 performances or entertainment or by other similar types of fundraising activities.

9 (ii) agricultural property owned by a purely public charity is not exempt if the agricultural property is
10 used by the charity to produce unrelated business taxable income as that term is defined in section 512 of the
11 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 512. A public charity claiming an exemption for agricultural property shall file
12 annually with the department a copy of its federal tax return reporting any unrelated business taxable income
13 received by the charity during the tax year, together with a statement indicating whether the exempt property
14 was used to generate any unrelated business taxable income.

15 (iii) up to 15 acres of property owned by a purely public charity is exempt at the time of its purchase
16 even if the property must be improved before it can directly be used for its intended charitable purpose. If the
17 property is not directly used for the charitable purpose within 8 years of receiving an exemption under this
18 section or if the property is sold or transferred before it entered direct charitable use, the exemption is revoked
19 and the property is taxable. In addition to taxes due for the first year that the property becomes taxable, the
20 owner of the property shall pay an amount equal to the amount of the tax due that year times the number of
21 years that the property was tax-exempt under this section. The amount due is a lien upon the property and
22 when collected must be distributed by the treasurer to funds and accounts in the same ratio as property tax
23 collected on the property is distributed. At the time the exemption is granted, the department shall file a notice
24 with the clerk and recorder in the county in which the property is located. The notice must indicate that an
25 exemption pursuant to this section has been granted. The notice must describe the penalty for default under
26 this section and must specify that a default under this section will create a lien on the property by operation of
27 law. The notice must be on a form prescribed by the department.

28 (iv) not more than 160 acres may be exempted by a purely public charity under any exemption

originally applied for after December 31, 2004. An application for exemption under this section must contain a legal description of the property for which the exemption is requested.

(d) For the purposes of subsection (1)(k), the term "public museums, art galleries, zoos, and observatories" means governmental entities or nonprofit organizations whose principal purpose is to hold property for public display or for use as a museum, art gallery, zoo, or observatory. The exempt property includes all real and personal property owned by the public museum, art gallery, zoo, or observatory that is reasonably necessary for use in connection with the public display or observatory use. Unless the property is leased for a profit to a governmental entity or nonprofit organization by an individual or for-profit organization, real and personal property owned by other persons is exempt if it is:

- (i) actually used by the governmental entity or nonprofit organization as a part of its public display;
- (ii) held for future display; or
- (iii) used to house or store a public display.

(e) For the purposes of facilities for the care of the retired, aged, or chronically ill under subsection (1)(n)(ii), the terms "retired" and "aged" mean an individual who satisfies the ~~age and~~ gross household income limitations of 15-30-2338 and is 62 years of age or older. The property owner shall verify age and gross household income requirements on a form prescribed by the department. Applicants are subject to the false swearing penalties established in 45-7-202."

Section 2. Section 15-7-102, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-7-102. Notice of classification, market value, and taxable value to owners -- appeals. (1) (a)

Except as provided in 15-7-138, the department shall mail or provide electronically to each owner or purchaser under contract for deed a notice that includes the land classification, market value, and taxable value of the land and improvements owned or being purchased. A notice must be mailed or, with property owner consent, provided electronically to the owner only if one or more of the following changes pertaining to the land or improvements have been made since the last notice:

- (i) change in ownership;
- (ii) change in classification;
- (iii) change in valuation; or

1 (iv) addition or subtraction of personal property affixed to the land.

2 (b) The notice must include the following for the taxpayer's informational and informal classification
3 and appraisal review purposes:

4 (i) a notice of the availability of all the property tax assistance programs available to property
5 taxpayers, including the intangible land value assistance program provided for in 15-6-240, the property tax
6 assistance programs provided for in Title 15, chapter 6, part 3, and the residential property tax credit for the
7 elderly provided for in 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341;

8 (ii) the total amount of mills levied against the property in the prior year;

9 (iii) the market value for the prior reappraisal cycle;

10 (iv) if the market value has increased by more than 10%, an explanation for the increase in
11 valuation;

12 (v) a statement that the notice is not a tax bill; and

13 (vi) a taxpayer option to request an informal classification and appraisal review by checking a box
14 on the notice and returning it to the department.

15 (c) When the department uses an appraisal method that values land and improvements as a unit,
16 including the sales comparison approach for residential condominiums or the income approach for commercial
17 property, the notice must contain a combined appraised value of land and improvements.

18 (d) Any misinformation provided in the information required by subsection (1)(b) does not affect the
19 validity of the notice and may not be used as a basis for a challenge of the legality of the notice.

20 (2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(c), the department shall assign each classification and
21 appraisal to the correct owner or purchaser under contract for deed and mail or provide electronically the notice
22 in written or electronic form, adopted by the department, containing sufficient information in a comprehensible
23 manner designed to fully inform the taxpayer as to the classification and appraisal of the property and of
24 changes over the prior tax year.

25 (b) The notice must advise the taxpayer that in order to be eligible for a refund of taxes from an
26 appeal of the classification or appraisal, the taxpayer is required to pay the taxes under protest as provided in
27 15-1-402.

28 (c) The department is not required to mail or provide electronically the notice to a new owner or

1 purchaser under contract for deed unless the department has received the realty transfer certificate from the
2 clerk and recorder as provided in 15-7-304 and has processed the certificate before the notices required by
3 subsection (2)(a) are mailed or provided electronically. The department shall notify the county tax appeal board
4 of the date of the mailing or the date when the taxpayer is informed the information is available electronically.

5 (3) (a) If the owner of any land and improvements is dissatisfied with the appraisal as it reflects the
6 market value of the property as determined by the department or with the classification of the land or
7 improvements, the owner may request an informal classification and appraisal review by submitting an
8 objection on written or electronic forms provided by the department for that purpose or by checking a box on the
9 notice and returning it to the department in a manner prescribed by the department.

10 (i) For property other than class three property described in 15-6-133, class four property
11 described in 15-6-134, class ten property described in 15-6-143, and centrally assessed property described in
12 15-23-101, the objection must be submitted within 30 days from the date on the notice.

13 (ii) For class three property described in 15-6-133, class four property described in 15-6-134, and
14 class ten property described in 15-6-143, the objection may be made only once each valuation cycle. An
15 objection must be made in writing or by checking a box on the notice within 30 days from the date on the
16 classification and appraisal notice for a reduction in the appraised value to be considered for both years of the
17 2-year valuation cycle. An objection made more than 30 days from the date of the classification and appraisal
18 notice will be applicable only for the second year of the 2-year valuation cycle. For an objection to apply to the
19 second year of the valuation cycle, the taxpayer shall make the objection in writing or by checking a box on the
20 notice no later than June 1 of the second year of the valuation cycle or, if a classification and appraisal notice is
21 received in the second year of the valuation cycle, within 30 days from the date on the notice.

22 (iii) For centrally assessed property described in 15-23-101(2)(a), the objection must be submitted
23 within 20 days from the date on the notice. A taxpayer may submit an objection up to 10 days after this deadline
24 on request to the department.

25 (iv) (A) For centrally assessed property described in 15-23-101(2)(b) and (2)(c), an objection to the
26 valuation or classification may be made only once each valuation cycle. An objection must be made in writing
27 within the time period specified in subsection (3)(a)(iii) for a reduction in the appraised value to be considered
28 for both years of the 2-year valuation cycle. An objection made after the deadline specified in subsection

(3)(a)(iii) will be applicable only for the second year of the 2-year valuation cycle. For an objection to apply to the second year of the valuation cycle, the taxpayer shall make the objection in writing no later than June 1 of the second year of the valuation cycle or, if a classification and appraisal notice is received in the second year of the valuation cycle, within the time period specified in subsection (3)(a)(iii).

(B) If a property owner has exhausted the right to object to a valuation, as provided for in subsection (3)(a)(iv)(A), the property owner may ask the department to consider extenuating circumstances to adjust the value of property described in 15-23-101(2)(b) or (2)(c). Occurrences that may result in an adjustment to the value include but are not limited to extraordinary, unusual, or infrequent events that are material in nature and of a character different from the typical or customary business operations, that are not expected to recur frequently, and that are not normally considered in the evaluation of the operating results of a business, including bankruptcies, acquisitions, sales of assets, or mergers.

(b) If the objection relates to residential or commercial property and the objector agrees to the confidentiality requirements, the department shall provide to the objector, by posted mail or electronically, within 8 weeks of submission of the objection, the following information:

(i) the methodology and sources of data used by the department in the valuation of the property; and

(ii) if the department uses a blend of evaluations developed from various sources, the reasons that the methodology was used.

(c) At the request of the objector or a representative of the objector, and only if the objector or representative signs a written or electronic confidentiality agreement, the department shall provide in written or electronic form:

(i) comparable sales data used by the department to value the property;

(ii) sales data used by the department to value residential property in the property taxpayer's market model area; and

(iii) if the cost approach was used by the department to value residential property, the documentation required in 15-8-111(3) regarding why the comparable sales approach was not reliable.

(d) For properties valued using the income approach as one approximation of market value, notice must be provided that the taxpayer will be given a form to acknowledge confidentiality requirements for the

1 receipt of all aggregate model output that the department used in the valuation model for the property.

2 (e) The review must be conducted informally and is not subject to the contested case procedures
3 of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. As a part of the review, the department may consider the actual
4 selling price of the property and other relevant information presented by the taxpayer in support of the
5 taxpayer's opinion as to the market value of the property. The department shall consider an independent
6 appraisal provided by the taxpayer if the appraisal meets standards set by the Montana board of real estate
7 appraisers and the appraisal was completed within 6 months of the valuation date pursuant to 15-8-201. If the
8 department does not use the appraisal provided by the taxpayer in conducting the appeal, the department shall
9 provide to the taxpayer the reason for not using the appraisal. The department shall give reasonable notice to
10 the taxpayer of the time and place of the review.

11 (f) After the review, the department shall determine the correct appraisal and classification of the
12 land or improvements and notify the taxpayer of its determination by mail or electronically. The department may
13 not determine an appraised value that is higher than the value that was the subject of the objection unless the
14 reason for an increase was the result of a physical change in the property or caused by an error in the
15 description of the property or data available for the property that is kept by the department and used for
16 calculating the appraised value. In the notification, the department shall state its reasons for revising the
17 classification or appraisal. When the proper appraisal and classification have been determined, the land must
18 be classified and the improvements appraised in the manner ordered by the department.

19 (4) Whether a review as provided in subsection (3) is held or not, the department may not adjust
20 an appraisal or classification upon the taxpayer's objection unless:

21 (a) the taxpayer has submitted an objection on written or electronic forms provided by the
22 department or by checking a box on the notice; and

23 (b) the department has provided to the objector by mail or electronically its stated reason in writing
24 for making the adjustment.

25 (5) A taxpayer's written objection or objection made by checking a box on the notice and
26 supplemental information provided by a taxpayer that elects to check a box on the notice to a classification or
27 appraisal and the department's notification to the taxpayer of its determination and the reason for that
28 determination are public records. The department shall make the records available for inspection during regular

1 office hours.

2 (6) Except as provided in 15-2-302 and 15-23-102, if a property owner feels aggrieved by the
3 classification or appraisal made by the department after the review provided for in subsection (3), the property
4 owner has the right to first appeal to the county tax appeal board and then to the Montana tax appeal board,
5 whose findings are final subject to the right of review in the courts. The appeal to the county tax appeal board,
6 pursuant to 15-15-102, must be filed within 30 days from the date on the notice of the department's
7 determination. A county tax appeal board or the Montana tax appeal board may consider the actual selling price
8 of the property, independent appraisals of the property, negative property features that differentiate the subject
9 property from the department's comparable sales, and other relevant information presented by the taxpayer as
10 evidence of the market value of the property. If the county tax appeal board or the Montana tax appeal board
11 determines that an adjustment should be made, the department shall adjust the base value of the property in
12 accordance with the board's order."

13

14 **Section 3.** Section 15-16-101, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"15-16-101. Treasurer to publish notice -- manner of publication.** (1) Within 10 days after the
16 receipt of the property tax record, the county treasurer shall publish a notice specifying:

17 (a) that one-half of all taxes levied and assessed will be due and payable before 5 p.m. on the next
18 November 30 or within 30 days after the notice is postmarked and that unless paid prior to that time the amount
19 then due will be delinquent and will draw interest at the rate of 5/6 of 1% a month from the time of delinquency
20 until paid and 2% will be added to the delinquent taxes as a penalty;

21 (b) that one-half of all taxes levied and assessed will be due and payable on or before 5 p.m. on
22 the next May 31 and that unless paid prior to that time the taxes will be delinquent and will draw interest at the
23 rate of 5/6 of 1% a month from the time of delinquency until paid and 2% will be added to the delinquent taxes
24 as a penalty; and

25 (c) the time and place at which payment of taxes may be made.

26 (2) (a) The county treasurer shall send to the last-known address of each taxpayer a written notice,
27 postage prepaid, showing the amount of taxes and assessments due for the current year and the amount due
28 and delinquent for other years. The written notice must include:

- 1 (i) the taxable value of the property;
- 2 (ii) the total mill levy applied to that taxable value;
- 3 (iii) itemized city services and special improvement district assessments collected by the county;
- 4 (iv) the number of the school district in which the property is located;
- 5 (v) the amount of the total tax due itemized by mill levy that is levied as city tax, county tax, state
- 6 tax, school district tax, and other tax;
- 7 (vi) an indication of which mill levies are voted levies, including voted levies to impose a new mill
- 8 levy, to increase a mill levy that is required to be submitted to the electors, or to exceed the mill levy limit
- 9 provided for in 15-10-420;
- 10 (vii) except as provided in subsection (2)(c), an itemization of the taxes due for each mill levy and a
- 11 comparison to the amount due for each mill levy in the prior year; and
- 12 (viii) a notice of the availability of all the property tax assistance programs available to property
- 13 taxpayers, including the intangible land value assistance program provided for in 15-6-240, the property tax
- 14 assistance programs under Title 15, chapter 6, part 3, and the residential property tax credit ~~for the elderly~~
- 15 under 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341.
- 16 (b) If a tax lien is attached to the property, the notice must also include, in a manner calculated to
- 17 draw attention, a statement that a tax lien is attached to the property, that failure to respond will result in loss of
- 18 property, and that the taxpayer may contact the county treasurer for complete information.
- 19 (c) The information required in subsection (2)(a)(vii) may be posted on the county treasurer's
- 20 website instead of being included on the written notice.
- 21 (3) The municipality shall, upon request of the county treasurer, provide the information to be
- 22 included under subsection (2)(a)(iii) ready for mailing.
- 23 (4) The notice in every case must be given as provided in 7-1-2121. Failure to publish or post
- 24 notices does not relieve the taxpayer from any tax liability. Any failure to give notice of the tax due for the
- 25 current year or of delinquent tax will not affect the legality of the tax.
- 26 (5) If the department revises an assessment that results in an additional tax of \$5 or less, an
- 27 additional tax is not owed and a new tax bill does not need to be prepared."
- 28

1 **Section 4.** Section 15-17-125, MCA, is amended to read:

2 **"15-17-125. Attachment of tax lien and preparation of tax lien certificate.** (1) (a) The county
3 treasurer shall attach a tax lien no later than the first working day in August to properties on which the taxes are
4 delinquent and for which proper notification was given as provided in 15-17-122 and subsection (4) of this
5 section. Upon attachment of a tax lien, the county is the possessor of the tax lien unless the tax lien is assigned
6 pursuant to 15-17-323.

7 (b) The county treasurer may not attach a tax lien to a property on which taxes are delinquent but
8 for which proper notice was not given.

9 (2) After attaching a tax lien, the county treasurer shall prepare a tax lien certificate that must
10 contain:

- 11 (a) the date on which the property taxes became delinquent;
12 (b) the date on which a property tax lien was attached to the property;
13 (c) the name and address of record of the person to whom the taxes were assessed;
14 (d) a description of the property on which the taxes were assessed;
15 (e) a separate listing of the amount of the delinquent taxes, penalties, interest, and costs;
16 (f) a statement that the tax lien certificate represents a lien on the property that may lead to the
17 issuance of a tax deed for the property;
18 (g) a statement specifying the date on which the county or an assignee will be entitled to a tax
19 deed; and
20 (h) an identification number corresponding to the tax lien certificate.

21 (3) The tax lien certificate must be signed by the county treasurer. A copy of the tax lien certificate
22 must be filed by the treasurer in the office of the county clerk. A copy of the tax lien certificate must also be
23 mailed to the person to whom the taxes were assessed, at the address of record, together with a notice that the
24 person may contact the county treasurer for further information on property tax liens.

25 (4) Prior to attaching a tax lien to the property, the county treasurer shall send notice of the
26 pending attachment of a tax lien to the person to whom the property was assessed. The notice must include the
27 information listed in subsection (2), state that the tax lien may be assigned to a third party, and provide notice of
28 the availability of all the property tax assistance programs available to property taxpayers, including the

1 property tax assistance programs under Title 15, chapter 6, part 3, and the residential property tax credit for the
2 elderly under 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341. The notice must have been mailed at least 2 weeks prior to the
3 date on which the county treasurer attaches the tax lien.

4 (5) The county treasurer shall file the tax lien certificate with the county clerk and recorder."
5

6 **Section 5.** Section 15-30-2303, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"15-30-2303. Tax credits subject to review by interim committee.** (1) The following tax credits
8 must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2021, and during each biennium commencing 8
9 years thereafter:

10 (a) the credit for donations to innovative educational programs provided for in 15-30-2334, 15-30-
11 3110, and 15-31-158;

12 (b) the credit for donations to a student scholarship organization provided for in 15-30-2335, 15-
13 30-3111, and 15-31-159; and

14 (c) the adoption tax credit provided for in 15-30-2321.

15 (2) The following tax credits must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2023, and
16 during each biennium commencing 8 years thereafter:

17 (a) the credit for infrastructure use fees provided for in 17-6-316;

18 (b) the credit for contributions to a qualified endowment provided for in 15-30-2327 through 15-30-
19 2329, 15-31-161, and 15-31-162;

20 (c) the credit for property to recycle or manufacture using recycled material provided for in Title 15,
21 chapter 32, part 6; and

22 (d) the credit for preservation of historic buildings provided for in 15-30-2342 and 15-31-151.

23 (3) The following tax credits must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2025, and
24 during each biennium commencing 8 years thereafter:

25 (a) the residential property tax credit for the elderly provided for in 15-30-2337 through 15-30-
26 2341;

27 (b) the credit for unlocking state lands provided for in 15-30-2380;

28 (c) the job growth incentive tax credit provided for in 15-30-2361 and 15-31-175; and

1 (d) the credit for trades education and training provided for in 15-30-2359 and 15-31-174.

2 (4) The following tax credits must be reviewed during the biennium commencing July 1, 2027, and
3 during each biennium commencing 8 years thereafter:

4 (a) the credit for hiring a registered apprentice or veteran apprentice provided for in 15-30-2357
5 and 15-31-173;

6 (b) the earned income tax credit provided for in 15-30-2318;

7 (c) the media production and postproduction credits provided for in 15-31-1007 and 15-31-1009;

8 and

9 (d) the credit for contractor's gross receipts provided for in 15-50-207.

10 (5) The revenue interim committee shall review the tax credits scheduled for review and make
11 recommendations in accordance with 5-11-210 at the conclusion of the full review to the legislature about
12 whether to eliminate or revise the credits. The committee shall also review any tax credit with an expiration date
13 or termination date that is not listed in this section in the biennium before the credit is scheduled to expire or
14 terminate.

15 (6) The revenue interim committee shall review the credits using the following criteria:

16 (a) whether the credit changes taxpayer decisions, including whether the credit rewards decisions
17 that may have been made regardless of the existence of the tax credit;

18 (b) to what extent the credit benefits some taxpayers at the expense of other taxpayers;

19 (c) whether the credit has out-of-state beneficiaries;

20 (d) the timing of costs and benefits of the credit and how long the credit is effective;

21 (e) any adverse impacts of the credit or its elimination and whether the benefits of continuance or
22 elimination outweigh adverse impacts; and

23 (f) the extent to which benefits of the credit affect the larger economy. (Subsection (3)(c)

24 terminates December 31, 2028--sec. 4, Ch. 391, L. 2023; subsection (3)(d) terminates December 31, 2028--

25 sec. 2, Ch. 576, L. 2023; subsection (1)(c) terminates December 31, 2031--sec. 6, Ch. 493, L. 2023.)"

26

27 **Section 6.** Section 15-30-2338, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"15-30-2338. Residential property tax credit ~~for elderly~~--- eligibility -- disallowance or**

1 **adjustment.** (1) In order to be eligible to make a claim under 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341, an individual:

2 (a) ~~must have reached age 62 or older during the claim period for which relief is sought;~~

3 (b)(a) must have resided in Montana for at least 9 months of that the claim period for which relief is
4 sought;

5 (c)(b) must have occupied one or more dwellings in Montana as an owner, renter, or lessee for at
6 least 6 months of the claim period; and

7 (d)(c) must have less than \$45,000 \$49,600 of gross household income.

8 (2) A person is not disqualified as a claimant if the person changes residences during the claim
9 period, provided that the person occupies one or more dwellings in Montana as an owner, renter, or lessee for
10 at least 6 months during the claim period.

11 (3) A claim is disallowed if the department finds that the claimant received title to the claimant's
12 homestead primarily for the purpose of receiving benefits under 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341.

13 (4) When the landlord and tenant have not dealt at arm's length and the department judges the
14 gross rent charged to be excessive, the department may adjust the gross rent to a reasonable amount."
15

16 **Section 7.** Section 15-30-2340, MCA, is amended to read:

17 **"15-30-2340. Residential property tax credit ~~for elderly~~ -- computation of relief.** The amount of
18 the tax credit granted under the provisions of 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341 is computed as follows:

19 (1) ~~In~~ Subject to subsection (5), in the case of a claimant who owns the homestead for which a
20 claim is made, the credit is the amount of property tax billed less the deduction specified in subsection (4).

21 (2) ~~In~~ Subject to subsection (5), in the case of a claimant who rents the homestead for which a
22 claim is made, the credit is the amount of rent-equivalent tax paid less the deduction specified in subsection (4).

23 (3) ~~In~~ Subject to subsection (5), in the case of a claimant who both owns and rents the homestead
24 for which a claim is made, the credit is:

25 (a) the amount of property tax billed on the owned portion of the homestead less the deduction
26 specified in subsection (4); plus

27 (b) the amount of rent-equivalent tax paid on the rented portion of the homestead less the
28 deduction specified in subsection (4).

- 1 (4) Property tax billed and rent-equivalent tax paid are reduced according to the following
 2 schedule:

Household income	Amount of reduction
\$0 - \$999	\$0
\$1,000 - \$1,999	\$0
\$2,000 - \$2,999	the product of .006 times the household income
\$3,000 - \$3,999	the product of .016 times the household income
\$4,000 - \$4,999	the product of .024 times the household income
\$5,000 - \$5,999	the product of .028 times the household income
\$6,000 - \$6,999	the product of .032 times the household income
\$7,000 - \$7,999	the product of .035 times the household income
\$8,000 - \$8,999	the product of .039 times the household income
\$9,000 - \$9,999	the product of .042 times the household income
\$10,000 - \$10,999	the product of .045 times the household income
\$11,000 - \$11,999	the product of .048 times the household income
\$12,000 & over	the product of .050 times the household income

- 3 (5) For a claimant whose household income is ~~\$35,000~~ \$39,600 or more but less than ~~\$45,000~~
 4 \$49,600, the amount of the credit is equal to the credit calculated under this section multiplied by the decimal
 5 equivalent of a percentage figure according to the following table:

Gross household income	Percentage of credit allowed
\$35,000 - \$37,500 <u>\$39,600 - \$42,100</u>	40%
\$37,501 - \$40,000 <u>\$42,101 - \$44,600</u>	30%
\$40,001 - \$42,500 <u>\$44,601 - \$47,100</u>	20%
\$42,501 - \$44,999 <u>\$47,101 - \$49,599</u>	10%
\$45,000 <u>\$49,600</u> or more	0%

- 6 (6) The credit granted may not exceed ~~[\$1,150]~~ \$1,250.

- 7 (7) Relief under 15-30-2337 through 15-30-2341 is a credit against the claimant's Montana
 8 individual income tax liability for the claim period. If the amount of the credit exceeds the claimant's liability

1 under this chapter, the amount of the excess must be refunded to the claimant. The credit may be claimed even
2 though the claimant has no income taxable under this chapter. ~~(Bracketed language in subsection (6) is~~
3 ~~temporarily amended to "\$1,000" on occurrence of contingency for income tax years 2022, 2023, 2024, and~~
4 ~~2025 until December 31, 2025—sec. 13, Ch. 476, L. 2021.)"~~

5
6 **Section 8.** Section 11, Chapter 476, Laws of 2021, is amended to read:

7 **"Section 11. Effective dates -- applicability.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (6),
8 [this act] is effective July 1, 2021.

9 (2) [Sections 1 and 6] are effective October 1, 2021, and apply to the income tax year beginning
10 after December 31, 2021.

11 (3) [Sections 2 and 7] are effective October 1, 2022, and apply to the income tax year beginning
12 after December 31, 2022.

13 (4) [Sections 3 and 8] are effective October 1, 2023, and apply to the income tax year beginning
14 after December 31, 2023.

15 (5) ~~[Sections 4 and 9] are~~ [Section 4] is effective October 1, 2024, and ~~apply~~ applies to the income
16 tax year beginning after December 31, 2024.

17 (6) ~~[Sections 5 and 10] are~~ [Section 5] is effective October 1, 2025, and ~~apply~~ applies to the
18 income tax years beginning after December 31, 2025."

19
20 **Section 9.** Section 12, Chapter 476, Laws of 2021, is amended to read:

21 **"Section 12. Termination.** (1) [Sections 1 and 6] terminate December 31, 2022.

22 (2) [Sections 2 and 7] terminate December 31, 2023.

23 (3) [Sections 3 and 8] terminate December 31, 2024.

24 (4) ~~[Sections 4 and 9] terminate~~ [Section 4] terminates December 31, 2025.

25 (5) [Section 13] terminates January 1, 2025."
26

27 NEW SECTION. **Section 10. Repealer.** Sections 9 and 10, Chapter 476, Laws of 2021, are repealed.
28

