

SCS SB 630 -- HOMESTEAD PRESERVATION ACT

SPONSOR: Gross (Portwood)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Senior Citizen Advocacy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute modifies the Homestead Preservation Act by including eligibility for multiple, unmarried property owners. The substitute specifies that in the case of joint ownership or tenancy in common by unmarried persons, all owners will be considered eligible owners if each person with an ownership interest individually satisfies the eligibility requirements. To qualify, the combined income of all interest holders in the property must be less than the maximum upper limit in the year prior to applying for the homestead credit. The filing deadline for the homestead tax credit is moved from September 30 to October 15.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Unknown in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the current statute does not address situations where there are multiple, unmarried property owners. The bill will close the statutory loophole by barring persons, who are otherwise individually eligible for the credit, from claiming the credit when joint owners of the property, taken together, are ineligible for the tax credit. The bill will not change the underlying eligibility requirements for the homestead exemption. Extending the filing deadline will aid senior citizens by providing them more time to file their application.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Gross; and AARP.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alex Curchin, Legislative Analyst