

For Homeowners

Your property tax (a) \$ _____
plus
50 % of water bill (b) \$ _____
= (c) \$ _____

Total annual income (d) \$ _____
(includes all income exempt from state income tax,
i.e., Social Security, state municipal pensions)

(times) x .10
= (e) \$ _____

To calculate total possible credit (f):

Line (c) \$ _____
(minus) Line (e) \$ _____
= (f) \$ _____

For Renters

Your annual rent (a) \$ _____
(times) x .25
= (b) \$ _____
Total annual income (c) \$ _____
(times) x .10
= (d) \$ _____

To calculate total possible credit (e):

Line (b) \$ _____
(minus) Line (d) \$ _____
= (e) \$ _____

(NOTE: This is NOT an official tax document)

For more information about the
Circuit Breaker Tax Credit

Contact:

Seekonk Human Services
540 Arcade Avenue
Seekonk, MA 02771
508-336-8772

or

The Massachusetts
Department of Revenue
Customer Service Bureau
800-392-6089 toll free

or

Department of Revenue
website
www.mass.gov/dor

More state government
information is available
by visiting
www.mass.gov

THE CIRCUIT BREAKER



Massachusetts Property Tax Relief for Senior Citizens

Updated for 2018 Tax Year
By:
Seekonk Human Services

What is the Circuit Breaker?

It's called the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit because its "triggered," like an electrical circuit breaker, when property tax payments exceed 10 percent of a senior citizen's annual income.

Those who qualify are still required to pay property taxes to their local communities. Seniors will receive a dollar credit on their Massachusetts tax return for every dollar that the total of their property tax, water and sewer bills exceed 10 percent of their income.

Senior citizens who rent their homes can also take advantage of the same dollar-for-dollar-credit if 25 percent of their annual rent exceeds 10 percent of their annual income.

Is there a special application?

To receive the credit, you must file Schedule CB with a 2018 Massachusetts state income tax return by April 15, 2019 even if you don't owe any income tax.

You may also be eligible for a refundable tax credit for 2015, 2016, and 2017, even if you did not file Massachusetts state income tax forms. The deadline for filing for the 2015 tax year is April 15, 2019.

Who is eligible?

- ❖ Must be a Massachusetts resident age 65 or older by the end of the tax year for which you are filing
- ❖ Must own or rent residential property in Massachusetts and occupy it as your primary residence
- ❖ For 2018 tax year, must have an annual income of \$58,000 or less for a single filer, \$72,000 or less for a head of household, or \$86,000 or less for joint filers

Who is ineligible?

- ❖ Married persons who do not file jointly for this credit
- ❖ Those who are a dependent of another tax filer
- ❖ Those who receive federal or state rent subsidy directly, or those who live in a property tax exempt facility
- ❖ For 2018 tax year, those whose property is assessed at a value of \$747,000 or less.

How much is the credit?

For 2018, the credit is capped at **\$1100**. The worksheet on the next page is not an official tax document, but can give you a rough idea of what your credit might be.

Previous year provisions

Tax year 2015

Annual income limit

Single	\$57,000
Head of household	\$71,000
Married, filing jointly	\$85,000

Assessed valuation of home

No greater than	\$693,000
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Maximum credit \$1050

Tax year 2016

Annual income limit

Single	\$57,000
Head of household	\$71,000
Married, filing jointly	\$86,000

Assessed valuation of home

No greater than	\$720,000
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Maximum credit \$1070

Tax year 2017

Annual income limit

Single	\$57,000
Head of household	\$72,000
Married, filing jointly	\$86,000

Assessed valuation of home

No greater than	\$747,000
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Maximum credit 1080