

February 1, 2024

Chairman Smith and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2470 which extends the period of time to file property tax homestead claims.

I retired at the end of 2019 and started living on a much lower income, Social Security in 2020. I only became aware of the Homestead Property tax refund program in December 2022 by reading a flyer in my real estate tax statement. I always thought a Homestead was a farm settled by your ancestors/pioneers.

Being retired and living on Social Security, my income was just above the household income for the SafeSR tax refund. My income and townhouse value did qualify for the Homestead Property Tax Refund; so I applied for 2020 and 2021 in January 2023. I was denied because I did not have a valid reason (lack of knowledge of the program) for the late application. An example of a valid reason for a late application is being out of the country, which I interpret as having money to travel. Being unaware of the homestead program does not meet the KDOR criteria for allowing a late filed return.

Extending the deadline will give people ample time to apply for the program.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony,

Laurie H Jones
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