



TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

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March 29, 2024

Hon. Sen. Walter S. Felag, Jr.

Hon. Sen. Pamela J. Lauria

Hon. Sen. Linda L. Ujifusa

Hon. Rep. June S. Speakman

Hon. Rep. Susan R. Donovan

(via email: sen-felag@rilegislature.gov; sen-lauria@rilegislature.gov;
sen-ujifusa@rilegislature.gov; rep-speakman@rilegislature.gov; rep-donovan@rilegislature.gov)

Re: Town Council Resolution and Proposed Legislative Amendment (Senior tax exemptions)

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

At its regular meeting on March 27, 2024, the Bristol Town Council unanimously adopted a resolution in support of legislation allowing the Town of Bristol to grant real estate tax exemptions for persons of the age of sixty-five (65) years to require that eligible properties be owned and occupied by said persons for a period of twenty (20) years.

A copy of this resolution and a draft act are attached for your convenience.

The Bristol Town Council respectfully requests that you introduce and support the proposed amendment to Chapter 44-3-13 of the Rhode Island General laws in the 2024 legislative session.

Your consideration of this matter and action on behalf of the Town of Bristol is, as always, greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cordeiro
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

XC: Michael Ursillo, Esq.
Council Docket 3-27-2024

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION AMENDING THE TOWN OF BRISTOL'S REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS OVER THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS TO REQUIRE THAT ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES BE OWNED AND OCCUPIED BY SAID PERSONS FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY (20) YEARS

WHEREAS, the Bristol Town Council desires to grant real estate tax relief to long term residents over the age of sixty-five (65); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bristol has no such authority over taxation without enabling legislation from the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has granted such authority to other municipalities in Rhode Island through enabling legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Bristol Town Council hereby respectfully requests the General Assembly to enact a proposed amendment to Chapter 44-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, submitted herewith and appended hereto, in the 2024 legislative session, in order to enable the Town of Bristol to require that properties be owned and occupied for a period of twenty (20) years to receive real estate tax exemptions for persons over the age of sixty-five (65) years.
2. This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

ATTEST:



Melissa Cordeiro
Town Clerk



Nathan T. Calouro, Chairman
Bristol Town Council



2024 --

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION

Introduced by:

Date Introduced:

Referred to:

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 44-3 of the General Laws entitled "Property Subject to Taxation" is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **§ 44-3-13. Persons over the age of 65 years — Exemption.**

4 (a) Bristol. The town of Bristol may exempt from taxation the real estate situated in the town
5 owned and occupied for a period of twenty (20) years by any resident who has owned and resided
6 in, as his/her primary residence, a residential property or properties within the town continuously
7 for at least twenty (20) years; and who is over the age of sixty-five (65) years, as of the preceding
8 December 31st; or, over the age of seventy (70) years, as of the preceding December 31st; or, over
9 the age of seventy-five (75) years, as of the preceding December 31st, and which exemption is in
10 addition to any and all other exemptions from taxation to which the resident may otherwise be
11 entitled. The exemption shall be applied uniformly and without regard to ability to pay. Only one
12 exemption shall be granted to cotenants, joint tenants, and tenants by the entirety, even though all
13 the cotenants, joint tenants and tenants by the entirety are sixty-five (65) years of age or over as of

1 the preceding December 31st. The exemption applies to a life tenant who has the obligation for
2 payment of the tax on real estate. The town council of the town of Bristol shall, by ordinance,
3 establish the value of this exemption.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF

AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION

* * *

1 This act would provide that the town of Bristol shall limit its real estate tax exemption for
2 residents over the age of sixty-five (65) years to properties that have been owned and occupied by
3 said residents for a period of twenty (20) years.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.