

## **HB 37: Senior Citizen Property Tax Relief Program 2008 Budget Session**

**Sponsor: Rep. Debbie Hammons (D-H27, Worland); co-sponsors Reps. George Bagby (D-H15, Rawlins), Dan Dockstader (R-H21, Afton), Mike Madden (R-H40, Buffalo), Marty Martin (D-H48, Rock Springs) and Sens. Pat Aullman (R-S16, Thayne) Gerald Geis (R-S20, Worland), Bill Vasey (D-S11, Rawlins)**

HB 37 would have lowered property taxes for homeowners older than 65 who had lived in the same home for at least 10 years. It would have been applied if the Legislature also had approved HJ 2 (which it did not), a proposed constitutional amendment to allow such decreased property taxes, and if the amendment was passed by voters in the November 2008 election.

HB 37 would have exempted 50% of the first \$200,000 of market value of residential property for homeowners who qualified for the measure. To be eligible, the homeowner would have had to be at least 65 years old and to have lived in the home for at least 10 years.

It was estimated that the reduction would save homeowners up to \$638 per year, would apply to about 27,940 residents, and would cost the state \$15 to \$18 million per year in lost property tax revenue. The bill contained an appropriation of \$15.5 million to reimburse local governments for decreased property tax revenue for the first year if electors approved the necessary constitutional amendment, and instructed the Governor to include additional appropriations as necessary to fully reimburse local governments in future years.

Supporters of HB 37 and its companion proposed constitutional amendment (HJ 2), who included Governor Dave Freudenthal, argued that the bill would help elderly residents on fixed incomes who cannot afford increasing property taxes that are resulting from Wyoming's energy boom and housing shortage.

Opponents didn't like HB 37 largely because it would only benefit one category of Wyoming citizens, the elderly. HB 37 was competing for legislative support during the 2008 budget session with several other property tax reduction bills, ranging from proposals with no income or age restrictions to those that would benefit other target homeowners such as veterans and low-income citizens.

HB 37 had a bumpy ride to its ultimate demise in the House. After initially failing the bill on the vote for introduction, representatives reconsidered, re-voted to introduce HB 37, and assigned it to the House Revenue Committee. That committee voted to kill the bill, 3-6, with Representatives Ken Esquibel (D-H41, Cheyenne), Mary Gilmore (D-H59, Casper) and Mike Madden (R-H40, Buffalo) voting YES, and Representatives Rodney "Pete" Anderson (R-H10, Pine Bluffs) Tom Lubnau (R-H31, Gillette), David Miller (R-H55, Riverton), Mark Semlek (R-H1, Moorcroft), Tim Stubson (R-H56, Casper) and Dave Zwonitzer (R-H9, Cheyenne) voting NO on the bill.

The votes listed below are the first and second House votes for introduction. A YES vote means the representative wanted to consider lowering property taxes for elderly homeowners. A NO vote means the representative did not want to consider this property tax break for the elderly,

<b>Bighorn Basin Legislators</b>		<b>HB 37 Intro 1</b>	<b>HB 37 Intro 2</b>
S 18	Hank Coe (R)		
H 24	Colin Simpson (R)	Yes	Yes
H 50	Pat Childers (R)	No	No
S 19	Ray Peterson (R)		
H 25	Alan Jones (R)	No	No
H 26	Elaine Harvey (R)	No	Yes
S 20	Gerald E. Geis (R)		
H 27	Debbie Hammons (D)	Yes	Yes
H 28	Lorraine Quarberg (R)	No	No

<b>Casper-Area Legislators</b>		<b>HB 37 Intro 1</b>	<b>HB 37 Intro 2</b>
S 27	Bill Landen (R)		
H 35	Roy Cohee (R)	No	Yes
H 36	Mary Hales (R)	Yes	Yes
S 28	Kit Jennings (R)		
H 56	Tim Stubson (R)	Yes	Yes
H 57	Thomas A. Lockhart (R)	No	Yes
S 29	Drew A Perkins (R)		
H 37	Steve Harshman (R)	No	Yes
H 59	Mary Gilmore (D)	Yes	Yes
S 30	Charles K. Scott (R)		
H 38	Bob Brechtel (R)	No	Yes
H 58	Lisa Shepperson (R)	No	Yes

<b>Cheyenne-Area Legislators</b>		<b>HB 37 Intro 1</b>	<b>HB 37 Intro 2</b>
S 4	Tony Ross (R)		
H 7	Doug Samuelson (R)	No	Yes
H 41	Ken A Esquibel (D)	Yes	Yes
S 5	Robert (Bob) Fecht (R)		
H 8	Lori Millin (D)	Yes	Yes
H 42	Pete Illoway (R)	Yes	Yes
S 6	Wayne H. Johnson (R)		
H 9	David Zwonitzer (R)	No	No
H 10	Rodney "Pete" Anderson (R)	No	No
S 7	Kathryn Sessions (D)		
H 11	Mary Throne (D)	Yes	Yes
H 43	Dan Zwonitzer (R)	Yes	Yes
S 8	E. Jayne Mockler (D)		
H 12	Amy L Edmonds (R)	Yes	Yes
H 44	Floyd Esquibel (D)	Yes	Yes

<b>Gillette-Area Legislators</b>		<b>HB 37 Intro 1</b>	<b>HB 37 Intro 2</b>
S 23	John Hines (R)		
H 31	Thomas E. Lubnau II (R)	Yes	Yes
H 52	Sue Wallis (R)	No	No
S 24	Michael Von Flatern (R)		
H 32	Timonhy Hallinan (R)	No	No
H 53	Erin Mercer (R)	Yes	Yes

<b>Lander/Riverton-Area Legislators</b>		<b>HB 37 Intro 1</b>	<b>HB 37 Intro 2</b>
S 25	Cale Case (R)		
H 33	W. Patrick Goggles (D)	Yes	Yes
H 54	Del McOmie (R)	No	Yes
S 26	Eli Bebout (R)		
H 34	Frank Philp (R)	No	No
H 55	David Miller (R)	No	Yes

<b>Northeast/East Central WY Legislators</b>		<b>HB 37 Intro 1</b>	<b>HB 37 Intro 2</b>
S 1	C.L. Townsend (R)		
H 1	Mark Semlek (R)	No	No
H 2	Ross Diercks (D)	Yes	Yes
S 2	Jim Anderson (R)		
H 5	Matt Teeters (R)	No	No
H 6	Dave Edwards (R)	No	Yes
S 3	Curt Meier (R)		
H 3	Deborah Alden (R)	Yes	Yes
H 4	Edward A. Buchanan (R)	No	No

<b>Sheridan-Area Legislators</b>		<b>HB 37 Intro 1</b>	<b>HB 37 Intro 2</b>
S 21	Bruce Burns (R)		
H 29	Jerry Iekel (R)	Yes	Yes
H 51	Rosie Berger (R)	No	Yes
S 22	John Schiffer (R)		
H 30	Jack Landon (R)	Yes	Yes
H 40	Mike Madden (R)	Yes	Yes

<b>South Central WY Legislators</b>		<b>HB 37 Intro 1</b>	<b>HB 37 Intro 2</b>
S 9	Mike Massie (D)		
H 13	Jane Warren (D)	Yes	Yes
H 45	Kevin A. White (R)	No	Yes
S 10	Phil Nicholas (R)		
H 14	Kermit C. Brown (R)	No	Yes
H 46	James Slater (R)	Yes	Yes
S 11	Bill Vasey (D)		
H 15	George Bagby (D)	Yes	Yes
H 47	William Steward (R)	No	Yes

<b>Southwest WY Legislators</b>		<b>HB 37 Intro 1</b>	<b>HB 37 Intro 2</b>
S 12	Rae Lynn Job (D)		
H 48	Marty Martin (D)	Yes	Yes
H 16	Pete Jorgensen (D)	No	No
S 13	John M Hastert (D)		
H 17	Bernadine Craft (D)	Yes	Yes
H 60	Bill Thompson (D)	Yes	Yes
S 14	Stan Cooper (R)		
H 18	Allen Jaggi (R)	Yes	Yes
H 39	Stan Blake (D)	Yes	Yes
S 15	Ken Decaria (D)		
H 19	Owen Petersen (R)	Yes	Yes
H 49	Sandra Meyer (D)	Yes	Yes

<b>West Central WY Legislators</b>		<b>HB 37 Intro 1</b>	<b>HB 37 Intro 2</b>
S 16	Pat Aullman (R)		
H 20	Kathy Davison (R)	No	Yes
H 21	Dan Dockstader (R)	Yes	Yes
S 17	Grant Larson (R)		
H 22	Monte Olsen (R)	Yes	Yes
H 23	Keith Gingery (R)	Yes	No
See Southwest Region for H 16 and S 12			