



Legislation Summary:

An Act relative to taxes due upon the death of active-duty personnel and the elderly

Bill numbers: H2738 and S1827

Sponsors: Senator Cindy Friedman and Representative Michelle Ciccolo

Upon the death of a senior (over 65) person or active military person who has deferred their property tax and has no surviving spouse, this bill allows heirs to the property a one-year grace period to pay the deferred taxes plus the agreed upon interest.

Currently such heirs must pay the deferred taxes plus interest immediately upon the death of the deferrer or the interest rate escalates to 16%. There is no time to settle the estate. For the elderly, the regular interest rate on a deferral cannot exceed 8% and is as low as 0% in some towns.

This increase in the interest rate is a major deterrent for seniors deciding to defer their taxes and stay in their homes.

League position:

As a member of the Low-Income Housing Coalition's Women and Housing Task Force, LWVUS endorsed recommendations predicated on the conviction that every person and family should have decent, safe, and affordable housing. *LWVUS Impact on Issues p.139*

Property tax administration The League supports: · a method of levying the property tax to allow different tax burdens on different types of property (classification) *Where We Stand, page 20*