

**From:** [donotreply@mt.gov](mailto:donotreply@mt.gov)  
**To:** [LEG Cmte-RVIC Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for RIC  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 19, 2022 9:58:02 AM

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# Public Comments for the Revenue Interim Committee

**Date:** 19th January 2022 09:57

**First Name:**

Richard

**Last Name:**

Thieltges

**Email Address:**

medicinewolf@earthlink.net

**Subject:**

PTAP 15-6-305

**Comment:**

I am commenting on 15-6-305 My name is Richard Thieltges. I am from Helena, I am retired, and I live on Social Security. My property taxes went up 48% this year. How is that possible?, Well a big part of that is the out of date numbers in the Property Tax Assistance Program, 15-6-305. This is the program that reduces property taxes for low income seniors like myself. Currently in that bill it is only the first \$200,000 of value that is taxed at the lower rates of the program, and in addition it covers none of the special assessments that all counties add. I purchased my home in 1989 for \$105,000 This year my property is valued at \$347,400. The previous year it is valued at \$279,400. This bill was passed in 2015. Capping the value of the tax break for a home at \$200,000 may have made sense in 2015, but it does not make sense today. It is very out of date. I would like to propose that you amend Title 15, Chapter 6 Part 3 in subsection (2) to read "The first \$500,000 in appraisal value of residential real property qualifying for the property tax assistance program is taxed at the rates established..." I think a home going for \$200,000 in 2015 is probably going for close to \$500,000 today. I know a number of homes are going for that in my area. In addition I would like you to amend subsection (3) currently reading " The qualifying income levels contained in subsection (2) must be adjusted annually using the PCE (Personal Consumption Expenditures) inflation factor" to read " The qualifying income levels and the first \$500,000 in appraisal value contained in subsection (2) must be adjusted annually using the PCE inflation factor" This will maintain the appraisal values subject to reduction will be increased along with inflation.

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