

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



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February 14th, 2019

Chairwoman Tyson and Committee Members:

Good morning! My name is Tom Holland and I am the State Senator for the Kansas Senate 3rd District serving the communities of south Lawrence, Baldwin City, Eudora, and the western portion of Leavenworth County. I am here today to ask for your support of Senate Bill 91, otherwise known as "The Golden Years Homestead Property Tax Freeze Act".

Senate Bill 91 is designed to assist those limited income Kansas senior and disabled veteran homeowners whose homesteads are located in high valuation growth areas of the state. The Act would allow certain qualifying Kansas seniors age 65 or older or disabled veterans to make application to the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) to literally freeze their property taxes. They would continue to make full payment on their property tax bill to the county treasurer but would receive a rebate check from the KDOR for the difference between their current year property tax bill versus their property tax liability for the tax year in which their property taxes were frozen. The homeowner would have to make separate application for each year he/she wanted to freeze their property taxes. A provision has been made for the surviving spouse (provided he or she is residing in the homestead) to continue on with the rebate program if so desired. An additional provision has been added to also provide a sliding rebate for qualifying older Kansans and disabled veterans who rent.

As elected officials to the Kansas Legislature, it is imperative that we do everything within our powers to avoid having Kansans literally taxed out of their homes. This legislation can be easily implemented alongside other existing property tax "circuit breaker" options currently found under the Kansas Homestead Rebate program administered by KDOR. It does not in any way impact the tax base of local units of government, it does not require a constitutional amendment to implement and it does not require significant state general fund (SGF) expenditures to fund. I hope you will join me in helping our Kansas seniors and disabled veterans by supporting SB 91.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Holland".

Tom Holland
Senator – 3rd District