

State Representative
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House District 60

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Oregon House of Representatives Supports Senior and Disabled Home Owners

SALEM –Representative Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) joined his colleagues in the Oregon House as they unanimously voted to send House Bill 2510A on to the Senate. This bill allows participants in the Senior and Disabled Property tax deferral program who were disqualified in 2011 due to cutbacks in the program, to reapply for a determination of eligibility for participation in the program beginning July 2014.

The Senior and Disabled Property tax deferral program, created by the Oregon Legislature in 1963, is intended to help Oregonians of modest financial means remain in their homes by providing a deferral of real property taxes on their home. The taxes are to be paid back, with interest, after the home sells or the property owner dies. The housing downturn, beginning in 2008, dramatically and negatively impacted the program, driving it near insolvency in 2011. To address this, the Legislature restricted eligibility requirements to keep the fund solvent.

“This bill partially removes some of the restrictive eligibility requirements developed during previous legislative sessions,” Rep. Bentz stated. “The requirements established during the 2011 and 2012 legislative sessions were necessary to improve the financial solvency of the fund; we now find that we were a little more conservative than we needed to be. House Bill 2510 allows an additional 653 senior and disabled individuals to be able stay in their homes.”

House Bill 2510A passed the House unanimously and will head to the Senate for consideration.

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