

## **PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAMS**

### **Administered by the South Berwick Assessing Office**

**Homestead Exemption:** The Homestead exemption reduces the property tax bill of all South Berwick resident homeowners who apply for the exemption by April 1st and who have owned and lived in their house for the prior 12 months. The exempt amount of \$25,000 is deducted from the property's total taxable value.

**Veteran Exemption:** Any South Berwick resident homeowner who was in active service in the armed forces of the U.S during a federally recognized war campaign period and, if discharged or retired under honorable conditions, may be eligible for a \$6,000 reduction in valuation. The veteran must have reached age 62 or be receiving a pension or compensation from the U.S Military for total disability.

**Widow/Widower of Veteran Exemption:** Any South Berwick resident homeowner who is a non-remarried widow or widower of a veteran who would have been entitled to the Veteran exemption, may be eligible for a \$6,000 reduction in valuation.

**Blind Exemption:** Any South Berwick resident homeowner who is certified to be legally blind by their eye care professional is eligible for a \$4,000 reduction in valuation.

**Renewable Energy Equipment Exemption** -This program exempts renewable energy equipment, such as solar panels, from property tax. Taxpayers must apply for the credit by April 1 of the first year the exemption is requested.

**Applications for the above programs can be picked up at the Assessor's Office or downloaded at:** <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs/property-tax-exemptions>

---

---

### **Two Programs Administered by the State Expanded**

**State Property Tax Deferral Program:** The State Property Tax Deferral Program is a loan program that covers the annual property tax bills of Maine residents who are ages 65 and older and meet income requirements or are permanently disabled. The loan program requires repayment of the loan once the property is sold or becomes part of an estate. **Applications must be submitted between January 1 and April 1 to the Assessor's Office.** More information about this program can be found at: <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs/deferral-program>

**Property Tax Fairness Credit:** Eligible Maine taxpayers may receive a portion of the property tax or rent paid during the tax year on the **Maine individual income tax return** whether they owe Maine income tax or not. If the credit exceeds the amount of your individual income tax due for the tax year, the excess amount of credit will be refunded to you. More information can be found at: <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/income-tax-credits/property-tax-fairness-credit>