

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 316

BY REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1
2 RELATING TO TAXATION; AMENDING SECTION 63-602G, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A PRO-
3 VISION REGARDING CERTAIN INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED ON THE AP-
4 PPLICATION FOR A HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION;
5 DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Section 63-602G, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
8 amended to read as follows:

9 63-602G. PROPERTY EXEMPT FROM TAXATION -- HOMESTEAD. (1) For each tax
10 year, the first one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) of the
11 market value for assessment purposes of the homestead as that term is defined
12 in section 63-701, Idaho Code, or fifty percent (50%) of the market value
13 for assessment purposes of the homestead as that term is defined in section
14 63-701, Idaho Code, whichever is the lesser, shall be exempt from property
15 taxation.

16 (2) The exemption allowed by this section may be granted only if:

17 (a) The homestead is owner-occupied and used as the primary dwelling
18 place of the owner. The homestead may consist of part of a multidwelling
19 or multipurpose building and shall include all of such dwelling or
20 building except any portion used exclusively for anything other than
21 the primary dwelling of the owner. The presence of an office in a home-
22 stead, which office is used for multiple purposes, including business
23 and personal use, shall not prevent the owner from claiming the exemp-
24 tion provided in this section; and

25 (b) The state tax commission has certified to the board of county com-
26 missioners that all properties in the county subject to appraisal by the
27 county assessor have, in fact, been appraised uniformly so as to secure
28 a just valuation for all property within the county; and

29 (c) The owner has certified to the county assessor that:

30 (i) He is making application for the exemption allowed by this
31 section;

32 (ii) The homestead is his primary dwelling place; and

33 (iii) He has not made application in any other county for the ex-
34 emption and has not made application for the exemption on any other
35 homestead in the county.

36 (d) For the purpose of this section, the definition of "owner" shall be
37 the same definition set forth in section 63-701(7), Idaho Code. When an
38 owner, pursuant to the provisions of section 63-701(7), Idaho Code, is
39 any person who is the beneficiary of a revocable or irrevocable trust,
40 or who is a partner of a limited partnership, a member of a limited lia-
41 bility company, or a shareholder of a corporation, he or she may provide

1 proof of the trust, limited partnership, limited liability company, or
2 corporation in the manner set forth in section 63-703(4), Idaho Code.

3 (e) Any owner may request in writing the return of all copies of any
4 documents submitted with the affidavit set forth in section 63-703(4),
5 Idaho Code, that are held by a county assessor, and the copies shall
6 be returned by the county assessor upon submission of the affidavit in
7 proper form.

8 (f) For the purpose of this section, the definition of "primary
9 dwelling place" shall be the same definition set forth in section
10 63-701(8), Idaho Code.

11 (g) For the purpose of this section, the definition of "occupied" shall
12 be the same definition set forth in section 63-701(6), Idaho Code.

13 (3) The county assessor of each county shall prescribe and make avail-
14 able forms to be used by a homeowner to apply for the homestead exemption pro-
15 vided in this section. The homeowner shall provide on such forms the home-
16 owner's full name, date of birth, complete address, and most recent previous
17 complete address. The homeowner shall also provide, ~~if~~ as applicable, such
18 homeowner's Idaho state-issued driver's license number or Idaho state-is-
19 sued identification card number, except that such requirement shall not ap-
20 ply to a homeowner in active military service for the initial application for
21 the exemption and during such time as the homeowner meets the qualifications
22 provided in subsection (8) of this section. If the homeowner applying for
23 the exemption provided in this section has not been domiciled in Idaho for
24 at least ninety (90) days and does not have an Idaho state-issued driver's
25 license or Idaho state-issued identification card, the homeowner shall pro-
26 vide an Idaho state-issued driver's license number or an Idaho state-issued
27 identification card number to the county assessor within ninety (90) days of
28 submitting such homeowner's initial application for the exemption.

29 (4) An owner need make application for the exemption described in sub-
30 section (1) of this section only once, as long as all of the following condi-
31 tions are met:

32 (a) The owner has received the exemption during the previous year as a
33 result of making a valid application as set forth in subsection (2) (c)
34 of this section.

35 (b) The owner or beneficiary, partner, member or shareholder, as appro-
36 priate, still occupies the same homestead for which the owner made ap-
37 plication.

38 (c) The homestead described in paragraph (b) of this subsection is
39 owner-occupied or occupied by a beneficiary, partner, member or share-
40 holder, as appropriate, and used as the primary dwelling place of the
41 owner or beneficiary, partner, member or shareholder, as appropriate.

42 (5) The exemption allowed by this section shall be effective ~~upon~~ on the
43 date of the application and must be taken before the reduction in taxes pro-
44 vided by sections 63-701 through 63-710, Idaho Code, is applied.

45 (6) Recovery of property tax exemptions allowed by this section but im-
46 properly claimed or approved:

47 (a) (i) Prior to granting an exemption, the county assessor shall
48 investigate whether an applicant for the exemption has claimed the
49 exemption for another homestead and shall not grant the exemption
50 where it appears the exemption has been improperly claimed. The

1 applicant shall be notified of the county assessor's refusal to
2 grant the exemption.

3 (ii) Upon discovery of evidence, facts or circumstances indicat-
4 ing any exemption allowed by this section was improperly claimed
5 or approved, the county assessor shall decide whether the exemp-
6 tion claimed should have been allowed and, if not, notify the tax-
7 payer in writing, assess a recovery of property tax and notify the
8 county treasurer of this assessment. If the county assessor de-
9 termined that an exemption was improperly approved as a result of
10 county error, the county assessor shall present the discovered ev-
11 idence, facts or circumstances from the improperly approved ex-
12 emption to the board of county commissioners, at which time the
13 board may waive a recovery of the property tax and notify such tax-
14 payer in writing.

15 (iii) Upon the first instance of a taxpayer being discovered to
16 have claimed more than one (1) homestead exemption, the taxpayer
17 shall be subject to a penalty, payable to the county treasurer, in
18 an amount equal to the amount of property tax recovered pursuant
19 to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, which shall be paid in ad-
20 dition to such recovery amount. The taxpayer shall be notified of
21 the assessment of such penalty at the same time as the notice of the
22 assessor's refusal to grant the exemption in subparagraph (i) of
23 this paragraph.

24 (iv) Any subsequent violation within seven (7) years of an in-
25 stance pursuant to subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph shall be a
26 misdemeanor, subject to the penalties provided in section 18-113,
27 Idaho Code. The county assessor shall notify the county prosecut-
28 ing attorney of any conduct that would constitute a misdemeanor
29 pursuant to this subparagraph.

30 (v) Nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit a taxpayer from
31 claiming a homestead exemption after January 1 for a property that
32 is not already subject to the homestead exemption, provided any
33 claim for an exemption is consistent with the requirements of sub-
34 section (2) (c) (iii) of this section.

35 (b) Upon request by a county assessor conducting an investigation under
36 paragraph (a) of this subsection, or when information indicating that
37 an improper claim for the exemption allowed by this section is discov-
38 ered by the state tax commission, the state tax commission shall dis-
39 close relevant information to the appropriate county assessor, board
40 of county commissioners, county clerk, and county treasurer and to the
41 secretary of state. Information disclosed to county officials and the
42 secretary of state by the state tax commission under this subsection:

43 (i) May be used to decide the validity of any entitlement to the
44 exemption provided in this section;

45 (ii) Shall, as necessary, be used to determine a person's resi-
46 dence for voting purposes under title 34, Idaho Code; and

47 (iii) Is not otherwise subject to public disclosure pursuant to
48 chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code.

49 (c) The assessment and collection of the recovery of property tax must
50 begin within the seven (7) year period beginning the date the assessment

1 notice reflecting the improperly claimed or approved exemption was re-
2 quired to be mailed to the taxpayer.

3 (d) (i) An applicant for an exemption under this section may appeal
4 to the county board of equalization the county assessor's refusal
5 to grant an exemption pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection
6 within thirty (30) days of the date the county assessor sent notice
7 of the refusal.

8 (ii) The taxpayer may appeal to the county board of equalization
9 the decision by the county assessor to assess the recovery of prop-
10 erty tax within thirty (30) days of the date the county assessor
11 sent the notice to the taxpayer pursuant to this section. The
12 board may waive the collection of all or part of any costs, late
13 charges, and interest in order to facilitate the collection of the
14 recovery of the property tax.

15 (iii) The taxpayer may appeal the imposition of the penalty pro-
16 vided in paragraph (a) (iii) of this subsection within thirty (30)
17 days of the date the county assessor sent the notice to the tax-
18 payer pursuant to this section.

19 (e) For purposes of calculating the tax, the amount of the recovered
20 property tax shall be for each year the exemption allowed by this sec-
21 tion was improperly claimed or approved, up to a maximum of seven (7)
22 years. The amount of the recovery of property tax shall be calculated
23 using the product of the amount of exempted value for each year multi-
24 plied by the levy for that year plus costs, late charges, and interest
25 for each year at the rates equal to those provided for delinquent prop-
26 erty taxes during that year.

27 (f) Any recovery of property tax shall be due and payable no later than
28 the date provided for property taxes in section 63-903, Idaho Code, and
29 if not timely paid, late charges and interest, beginning the first day
30 of January in the year following the year the county assessor sent the
31 notice to the taxpayer pursuant to this section, shall be calculated at
32 the current rate provided for property taxes.

33 (g) Recovered property taxes shall be billed, collected and dis-
34 tributed in the same manner as property taxes, except each taxing dis-
35 trict or unit shall be notified of the amount of any recovered property
36 taxes included in any distribution.

37 (h) Thirty (30) days after the taxpayer is notified, as provided in
38 paragraph (a) of this subsection, the assessor shall record a notice
39 of intent to attach a lien. Upon the payment in full of such recov-
40 ered property taxes prior to the attachment of the lien as provided in
41 paragraph (i) of this subsection, or upon the successful appeal by the
42 taxpayer, the county assessor shall record a rescission of the intent to
43 attach a lien within seven (7) business days of receiving such payment
44 or within seven (7) business days of the county board of equalization
45 decision granting the appeal. If the real property is sold to a bona
46 fide purchaser for value prior to the recording of the notice of the in-
47 tent to attach a lien, the county assessor and treasurer shall cease the
48 recovery of such unpaid recovered property tax.

49 (i) Any unpaid recovered property taxes shall become a lien on the real
50 property in the same manner as provided for property taxes in section

1 63-206, Idaho Code, except such lien shall attach as of the first day of
2 January in the year following the year the county assessor sent the no-
3 tice to the taxpayer pursuant to this section.

4 (j) For purposes of the limitation provided by section 63-802, Idaho
5 Code, moneys received pursuant to this subsection as recovery of prop-
6 erty tax shall be treated as property tax revenue.

7 (7) The legislature declares that this exemption is necessary and just.

8 (8) A homestead that previously qualified for exemption under this sec-
9 tion in the preceding year shall not lose such qualification due to: the
10 owner's, beneficiary's, partner's, member's or shareholder's absence in the
11 current year by reason of active military service or because the homestead
12 has been leased because the owner, beneficiary, partner, member or share-
13 holder is absent in the current year by reason of active military service.
14 An owner subject to the provisions of this subsection must apply for the ex-
15 emption with the county assessor every year on or before a deadline date as
16 specified by the county assessor for the county in which the homestead is
17 claimed. If an owner fails to apply on or before the established deadline,
18 the county may, at its discretion, discontinue the exemption for that year.

19 (9) A homestead that previously qualified for exemption under this
20 section in the preceding year shall not lose such qualification due to the
21 owner's, beneficiary's, partner's, member's or shareholder's death during
22 the year of the owner's, beneficiary's, partner's, member's or share-
23 holder's death and the tax year immediately following such death, provided
24 that the homestead continues to be a part of the owner's, beneficiary's,
25 partner's, member's or shareholder's estate. After such time, the new owner
26 shall reapply to receive the exemption pursuant to this section and shall
27 meet the qualification criteria contained in this section.

28 (10) The amount by which each exemption approved under this section ex-
29 ceeds one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) may, in the discretion of the
30 governing board of a taxing district, be deducted from the new construction
31 roll for the following year prepared by the county assessor in accordance
32 with section 63-301A, Idaho Code, but only to the extent that the amount ex-
33 ceeds the same deduction made in the previous year.

34 (11) By July 1, 2023, the state tax commission shall establish a data-
35 base of all active exemptions claimed under this section, which database
36 shall be searchable by a person's name and by the address of the homestead
37 for which the exemption is claimed. The database shall be made accessible
38 to officials listed in subsection (6) (b) of this section for the purpose of
39 verifying that:

40 (a) Multiple active exemptions have not been claimed by the same per-
41 son; and

42 (b) A person's residence for voting purposes is the same as the home-
43 stead for which such person has an active exemption pursuant to this
44 section, if an exemption is so claimed.

45 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
46 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its
47 passage and approval, and retroactively to January 1, 2025.