

#1994: Senior tax relief through taxing businesses that have not been taxed in years

1. Heading

Bill Number: H.B. No. 1568

Author/Sponsor: John Fay

Session: Florida Legislature, 2025-2026

2. The Title

An Act relating to closing outdated business tax exemptions and redirecting revenue to senior property tax relief

3. Enacting Clause

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:

4. Body of the Bill (Sections)

Section 1. Senior Property Tax Relief and Business Fairness Act

Section 2. Purpose/Findings

The legislature finds that:

1. Florida has one of the largest senior populations in the United States, with approximately 21% of residents aged 65 or older
2. Nearly 5 million seniors live on fixed incomes, with many relying solely on Social Security benefits that do not rise with inflation
3. Rising property taxes, insurance costs, and housing expenses threaten seniors' ability to remain in their homes
4. Although Florida offers a senior property tax exemption, only 37% of eligible seniors receive it due to administrative barriers, lack of awareness, and accessibility challenges
5. Florida maintains numerous outdated business tax exemptions, credits, and loopholes that have not been reviewed in years, which costs the state hundreds of millions of dollars annually
6. Other states, including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Colorado, successfully fund senior tax relief through business taxation or state-generated revenue
7. Closing outdated business exemptions and redirecting revenue toward senior property tax relief is a fiscally responsible and equitable necessary strategy for the well-being of Florida's elderly population

Section 3. Definitions

1. “Senior” means a Florida resident aged 65 or older
2. “Outdated business tax exemption” means any exemption, credit, or loophole not reviewed within the last 10 years
3. “Large corporation” means any business entity with annual gross receipts exceeding \$10 million, including LLCs, S-corporations, and partnerships
4. “Senior property tax relief” includes exemptions, rebates, and application assistance programs for eligible seniors

Section 4. Substantive Provisions

1. Review and closure of outdated business tax exemptions
 - a. The Department of Revenue should conduct a review of all business tax exemptions, credits, and loopholes
 - b. Exemptions not reviewed within the past 10 years should be subject to repeal unless they are proven to be effective, equitable, and fiscally justified
 - c. Exemptions that are primarily benefiting large corporations, such as those allowing avoidance of 5.5% corporate income tax, should mainly be looked at for repeals
2. Industry-specific exemptions
 - a. Priority repeals:
 - i. Sales tax exemptions for manufacturing equipment
 - ii. Agricultural supply exemptions
 - iii. Commercial energy use exemptions
 - iv. Any exemptions costing the state more than about \$10 million annually
3. Senior property tax relief expansion
 - a. Revenue that is generated from repealed exemptions should be used to:
 - i. Expand eligibility for low-income senior property tax exemptions
 - ii. Simplify the application process, including automatic renewal for qualifying seniors
 - iii. Provide direct rebates to seniors who are cost-burdened
 - iv. Fund outreach programs to help ensure seniors are aware of available relief
4. Protection of small businesses
 - a. Nothing in this Act proposes to impose new taxes on small businesses. The exemptions that do benefit small businesses should remain as is

Section 5. Enforcement and Administration

The Florida Department of Revenue is responsible for:

1. Implementing the exemption review process
2. Administering senior tax relief programs

3. Publishing annual reports that detail the revenue generated and the relief that's distributed

Section 6. Penalties

Any corporation that knowingly misrepresents financial information to retain an exemption that is repealed under this Act is subject to

1. A civil penalty up to \$50,000
2. Repayment of avoided taxes, with interest

5. Analysis of Your Research

1. Florida's senior population is large and financially vulnerable due to fixed incomes and rising housing costs
 - a. Only 37% of eligible seniors receive existing tax relief due to administrative barriers
2. Florida's business tax system contains outdated exemptions, which shift the tax burden onto homeowners, mainly including seniors
3. Closing outdated exemptions addresses both revenue shortages, as well as accessibility failures
4. Stakeholders include seniors, large corporations, small businesses, and state agencies

6. A description of its bipartisan appeal

1. Democratic Appeal
 - a. Protects seniors who are vulnerable
 - b. Closes corporate loopholes
 - c. Promotes fairness and equity
 - d. Funds relief without raising taxes on working families
 - e. Doesn't hurt small businesses
2. Republican Appeal
 - a. Does not raise taxes
 - b. Reduces government waste
 - c. Ensures corporations pay what they already owe
 - d. Supports seniors, a key constituency
 - e. Keeps policy at the state level
3. Bipartisan appeal/shared values
 - a. Fiscal responsibility
 - b. Protects seniors
 - c. Efficient use of state resources

7. Procedural/Administrative Provisions

1. Severability Clause
 - a. If any provision of this Act is found unconstitutional, the rest of the law remains in effect
2. Effective Date
 - a. This Act takes effect on July 1, 2026
3. Repealer Clause
 - a. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this Act will be repealed

8. Summary/Digest:

This bill closes outdated business tax exemptions and loopholes used primarily by large corporations and redirects the resulting revenue to expand and improve senior property tax relief. It simplifies the application processes, increases accessibility, and ensures small businesses are not harmed. The bill strengthens the fairness of Florida's tax system while also protecting seniors who live on fixed incomes.

9. Sources

Works Cited

- Chen, Peter. "ANCHORs Aweigh: Explaining Governor Murphy's New Property Tax Relief Program." *New Jersey Policy Perspective*, 4 April 2022,
[https://www.njpp.org/publications/explainer/anchors-weigh-explaining-governor-murph-ys-new-property-tax-relief-program/#:~:text=As%20the%20centerpiece%20of%20his,Co mmunities%20for%20Homeowners%20and%20Renters\).](https://www.njpp.org/publications/explainer/anchors-weigh-explaining-governor-murph-ys-new-property-tax-relief-program/#:~:text=As%20the%20centerpiece%20of%20his,Co mmunities%20for%20Homeowners%20and%20Renters).)
- "Colorado must keep its promise to seniors and disabled veterans." *Mesa County*, 16 July 2025,
<https://www.mesacounty.us/news/commissioners/colorado-must-keep-its-promise-seniors-and-disabled-veterans>. Accessed 11 February 2026.
- Anderson, Brian. "Nearly 22 Million Seniors Rely Solely on Social Security: Study." *401k Specialist*, 17 June 2025,
<https://401kspecialistmag.com/nearly-22-million-seniors-live-on-social-security-alone-tsc> l/. Accessed 7 February 2026.

“Department of Revenue | Department of Revenue.” *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*,
<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/revenue/ptrr>. Accessed 7 February 2026.

Fenyves, Steven. “Florida Tax Advantages for Retirees & Seniors.” *Valued Wealth Management*,
1 June 2025,
<https://www.valuedwealth.com/blog/florida-tax-advantages-for-retirees-seniors/>.
Accessed 7 February 2026.

“GT-300015 Business Guide.” *Florida Department of Revenue*,
https://www.floridarevenue.com/Forms_library/current/guides/gt300015.pdf. Accessed 7
February 2026.

Ma, John. “Tax Expenditure Analysis in Florida.” *State Regs Today*, January 2024,
stateregstoday.com/business/tax/tax-expenditure-analysis-in-florida?

Moralez, Diego. “Florida's Property Tax Relief: A Lifeline for Seniors Amid Rising Costs.”
MSN,
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/real-estate/florida-s-property-tax-relief-a-lifeline-for-seniors-amid-rising-costs/ar-AA1OLJrd?>

THE REALTOR.COM TEAM. “4.8 Million Retirees in Florida Qualify for the ‘Senior
Deduction’ Under Big, Beautiful Bill.” *realtor.com*, 5 February 2025,
<https://www.realtor.com/advice/hyperlocal/florida-retirees-senior-tax-deduction/>.

Stancliff, George. “10 Ways Florida Seniors Can Reduce Property Taxes in 2025.” *Property
Exemption*, 7 August 2025,
<https://www.propertyexemption.com/property-tax/property-tax-reduction-florida/>.