

HB 56 -- Assistance for Senior Citizens and Low-income Persons

Sponsor or Co-Sponsors: Ward, Selby

Same as or similar to: Year:

Emergency Clause: or Effective Date of:

Use Summary For: Version:, Year:,

Verbatim:

Modify above as follows:

New summary as follows: This bill provides tax-related and other forms of assistance to senior citizens and low-income individuals. The provisions providing assistance to senior citizens are:

(1) An increase in the property tax credit for senior citizens commonly known as the "circuit breaker" tax credit from \$750 to \$2,000, effective January 1, 2002. Eligible taxpayers who are single with an income of \$30,000 or less and those who are married with a combined income of \$40,000 or less are eligible for a circuit breaker tax credit equal to the lesser of the taxpayer's property taxes or rent, or \$2,000, effective 1/1/02;

(2) Beginning in tax years after 12/31/01, a nonrefundable income tax credit is available to taxpayers who are 65 years of age or older; the tax credit is equal to the lesser of zero or the amount of real and personal property taxes paid to support public schools less the amount of any circuit breaker tax credit received;

(3) An exemption for all persons 65 years of age and older from

the 1% tax on the retail sale of food; and

(4) An exemption of the cash value of an insurance policy from the resources used to determine eligibility for Medicaid and Medicare benefits.

Provisions providing assistance to low income persons include requiring the Department of Social Services to apply for any needed federal waivers to increase the asset limits for Medicaid eligibility from \$1,000 to \$4,000 for single persons, and from \$2,000 to \$6,000 for married couples. This bill also changes all references in the existing statutes authorizing health care for uninsured children to health care for uninsured families, thereby expanding medical coverage for the uninsured to certain low-income persons above age 19.