_____________ BILL NO. _____________

INTRODUCED BY ____

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: “AN ACT REVISING THE PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; REVISING THE QUALIFYING INCOME LEVELS FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS; AMENDING SECTION 15-6-305, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN APPLICABILITY DATE.”

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

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Section 1. Section 15-6-305, MCA, is amended to read:

"**15-6-305. Property tax assistance program -- fixed or limited income -- inflation adjustments.** (1) There is a property tax assistance program that provides graduated levels of tax assistance for the purpose of assisting citizens with limited or fixed incomes. To be eligible for the program, applicants must meet the requirements of 15-6-302.

(2) The first $350,000 in market value of residential real property qualifying for the property tax assistance program is taxed at the rates established by 15-6-134 multiplied by a percentage figure based on the applicant's qualifying income determined from the following table:

Income Single Person	Income Married Couple Head of Household	Percentage Multiplier
~~$0 - $13,590~~	~~$0 - $18,310~~	~~20%~~
~~$13,591 - $18,580~~	~~$18,311 - $27,667~~	~~50%~~
~~$18,581 - $27,621~~	~~$27,668 - $37,019~~	~~70%~~
$0 - $15,060	$0 - $20,440	20%
$15,061 - $20,580	$20,441 - $30,646	50%
$20,581 - $30,595	$30,647 - $41,005	70%

(3) The market value in subsection (2) must be adjusted after each reappraisal cycle provided for

in 15-7-111 using an inflation index based on the change in appraised value of a median value of residential real property participating in the property tax assistance program.

(4) The qualifying income levels contained in subsection (2) must be adjusted annually using the PCE inflation factor defined in 15-6-301, rounded to the nearest whole dollar amount. If the adjustment results in a decrease in qualifying income levels from the previous year, the qualifying income levels must remain the same for that year."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Applicability.** [This act] applies to property tax years beginning after December 31, 2025.

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