

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 9, 2005

LB 44

assessors. If individuals have...if they're over 65 years old and they have an income of less than 25,450 dollars, their \$69,000 home is totally exempt. Is this correct?

SENATOR REDFIELD: If they qualify with low income, yes, it is.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: So this would not benefit them one bit.

SENATOR REDFIELD: They wouldn't need any more tax relief if they have 100 percent tax relief right now. So this would...

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Excuse me.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Go ahead.

SENATOR REDFIELD: If someone was over the income level but over 65 years old and could not qualify under our current homestead exemption, they would be able to qualify for this. Or, if they were low income and did not...but still could not qualify under the current system because the value of their house has increased over the median in their county, this would allow them to qualify for some tax relief that they can't get right now.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. So, in other words, if their house is \$169,000 and they get a \$69,000 exemption and have to pay taxes on their \$100,000, they would get an additional \$6,000 of tax exemption. Is this correct?

SENATOR REDFIELD: Senator, the way you calculate whether you qualify, your home qualifies, is you look at the median or average home value in your county, and in most counties \$169,000 house would not receive any homestead exemption because it would exceed the level of that median. But if, in fact, you were in a county where the values were extremely high and you would qualify, then you could choose which one would benefit you the most.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: I don't think this is...this...I don't think her comments are totally correct because \$69,000 is the median