



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

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DATE: March 2, 1999

TO: SENATOR ROBERT WIRCH, CHAIRPERSON, SENATE COMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING AND GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS

FROM: Dan Fernbach, Senior Staff Attorney

SUBJECT: 1999 Senate Bill 38, Relating to Eligibility for the Property Tax Deferral
Loan Program

1999 Senate Bill 38 was introduced by Senator Risser on February 16, 1999 and referred to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing and Government Operations. A public hearing on the bill has been scheduled for March 11, 1999.

A. PRESENT LAW

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority currently operates a property tax deferral loan program which makes loans to *low-income homeowners 65 years of age or older* to help them pay their property taxes and special assessments. A homeowner is eligible for the program if he or she *earned \$20,000 or less* in the year prior to the year in which the property taxes or special assessments for which the loan is made are due.

B. PROVISIONS OF SENATE BILL 38

Senate Bill 38 *changes the eligibility requirements* for the property tax deferral loan program by making a homeowner eligible for a loan if he or she *earned \$30,000 or less* in income in the year prior to the year in which the property taxes or special assessments for which the loan is made are due. As a result, a greater number of elderly homeowners will be eligible for the program.

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