

Chapter 34

Exemptions and Credits

Created, May 20, 2019

Amended February 20, 2024

CHAPTER 34

EXEMPTIONS AND CREDITS

Section 34.1 Elderly Property Tax Exemption

A. Amount of Exemption

The elderly exemptions from property tax in the City of Somersworth, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, are as follows, effective April 1, 2022.

1. For a person 65 years of age up to 74 years, Sixty-Five Thousand (\$65,000) Dollars.
2. For a person 75 years of age up to 79 years, Eighty Thousand (\$80,000) Dollars.
3. For a person 80 years of age or older, Ninety Thousand (\$90,000) Dollars.

B. Qualifications

1. The taxpayer must be a New Hampshire resident for at least three (3) years and own the real estate individually or jointly or, if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married at least five (5) years.
2. The taxpayer must have a net income of not more than Thirty-Five Thousand, (\$35,000) Dollars or, if married, a combined net income of less than Fifty Thousand (\$50,000) Dollars.
2. The taxpayer must not own assets in excess of One-Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars, excluding the value of the person's residence and up to 2 acres of land.
3. The property cannot have been transferred to the applicant, from a person under the age of 65, if they were related to the applicant by blood or marriage, within the past five (5) years, per RSA 72:40-a, or as subsequently amended.
4. The property must meet the definition of a residential real estate, per RSA 72:29-II, or as subsequently amended, which includes the housing unit which is the person's principal home and related structures. It does not include attached dwelling units and unattached structures used or intended for commercial or other non-residential purposes.

C. Application

1. The application form for tax exemption, as authorized by RSA 72:33, or as subsequently amended, must be filed by the taxpayer with the Assessing Department by April 15th, prior to the setting of the tax rate and showing that the applicant was duly qualified upon April 1st of the year in which the exemption or tax credit is first claimed
2. The following documentation must be provided at the time of application:
 - List of assets, value of each asset, net encumbrance and net value of each asset (Provide year end statements for each of the assets);
 - Statement of applicant and spouse's income;
 - W-2 and 1099 forms;
 - Federal Income Tax Forms;
 - State Interest and Dividends Tax Form;
 - Property Tax Bill for any other property owned;
 - November and December bank statements for all accounts;
 - Copy of license or birth certificate;
 - Copy of Vehicle registrations.
3. Additional documentation may be requested to verify income and assets. Documents are considered confidential and are returned to the applicant at the time a decision is made on the application

Section 34.2 Veteran's Property Tax Credit

The City adopts the provisions of RSA 72:28, for an optional Veterans' Property Tax Credit. The Veterans' Property Tax Credit shall be \$750, effective April 1, 2023. (Amended 2023-03-06)

Section 34.3 Service Connected Total Disability

The City adopts the provisions of RSA 72:35, for an optional property tax credit on residential property for a service connected total disability. The service connected total disability tax credit shall be \$2,500, effective April 1, 2022. (Amended 2021-06-21)

Section 34.4 Surviving Spouse

The City adopts the provisions of RSA 72:29A, for an optional property tax credit for surviving spouses. The surviving spouse tax credit shall be \$2,000.

Section 34.5 Exemption for the Blind

Every inhabitant who is legally blind as determined by the administrator of blind services of the vocational rehabilitation division of the education department shall be exempt each year on the assessed value for property tax purposes of his/her residential

real estate to the value of \$25,000. The term “residential real estate” as used in this section shall mean the same as defined in RSA 72:29. All applications made under this section shall be subject to the provisions of RSA 72:33 and RSA 72:34. This exemption shall be effective as of April 1, 1993.

Section 34.6 Solar Exemption

The City re-adopts the provisions of RSA 72:62, an exemption from the assessed value for property tax purposes, for persons owning real property which is equipped with a solar energy system as defined in RSA 72:61. Such Solar property tax exemption shall be in an amount of \$30,000 or equal to the added assessed value of the qualifying solar energy system equipment as defined in RSA 72:61, whichever is less. This exemption shall be effective for the tax year that begins on April 1, 2024.

Section 34.7 Exemption for Prisoners of War

Pursuant to RSA 261:157-a, the City of Somersworth hereby waives the fee charged for a permit to register one motor vehicle owned by any person who was captured and incarcerated for 30 days as defined in RSA 72:28 IV, and who was honorably discharged, provided the person provides to the Tax Collector satisfactory proof of these circumstances.

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage, and any person entitled to said waiver who registered one vehicle prior to the effective date and after September 1, 1985, shall be entitled to a refund upon application and proper documentation.