



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Dean G. Skelos

## Senate Passes Legislation to Establish Fixed School Tax Rate for Seniors

DEAN G. SKELOS June 20, 2011

The New York State Senate today passed legislation, sponsored by Senator Kenneth P. LaValle (R-C-I, Port Jefferson), that would establish a fixed real property school tax rate for seniors who are eligible for the enhanced STAR exemption, providing much needed tax relief to hundreds of thousands of seniors throughout New York State.

"Long Island residents pay among the highest property taxes in the nation," said Senator LaValle. "Many seniors live on fixed incomes and find it extremely difficult to keep pace with continuous increases in school taxes. Even the slightest increase could mean taking money away from their food budget or much-needed medical care. This measure would stabilize taxes for Enhanced STAR recipients 70 and older and help ease the anxiety seniors experience in anticipation of a school tax increase."

"Many senior citizens throughout the state are living on fixed incomes and seeing their property tax bills rise every year," said Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos. "The burden of school property taxes are forcing many seniors out of their homes -- this bill would freeze

the tax rate and stop skyrocketing property taxes from eating more and more of seniors' income."

Under the bill (S.2998), homeowners aged 70 or older and meet the eligibility requirements for the enhanced STAR exemption would be eligible to apply annually for the fixed real property school tax rate at local option. The state would reimburse school districts for lost revenue caused by freezing the tax rates for seniors.

The bill was sent to the Assembly.

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