

State of Kansas
Senate Chamber

TOM HOLLAND
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DOUGLAS AND LEAVENWORTH COUNTIES

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RANKING MINORITY MEMBER: COMMERCE
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER: INTERSTATE COOPERATION
MEMBER: JOINT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION
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MEMBER: JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS

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Chairwoman Tyson and Committee Members:

Good morning! My name is Tom Holland and I am the State Senator for the Kansas 3rd State Senate District serving portions of Douglas and Leavenworth counties. I am here today to ask for your support of Senate Bill 76, the bi-partisan **Golden Years Homestead Property Tax Freeze Act**.

The Act would particularly assist those fixed income Kansas senior and disabled veteran homeowners whose homesteads are experiencing year-over-year growth in appraisal value. The Act would allow certain qualifying Kansas seniors age 65 or older or certain disabled veterans to make application to the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) to literally freeze their property taxes. They would continue to make full payment on their property tax bill to the county treasurer but would receive a fully refundable rebate check from the KDOR for the difference between their current year property tax bill versus their property tax liability for the tax year in which their property taxes were "frozen". The homeowner would have to make separate application for each year he/she wanted to freeze their property taxes. A provision has been made for the surviving spouse (provided he or she is residing in the homestead) to continue participating with the refund program if so desired.

As elected officials to the Kansas Legislature, it is imperative that we do everything within our powers to keep fixed income Kansans from literally being taxed out of their homes! **This is a program where we can assist qualifying individuals in Tax Year 2020!** The act does not in any way impact the tax base of local units of government, it does not require a constitutional amendment to implement and it does not require significant state general fund (SGF) expenditures to fund. I hope you will join me in helping our Kansas seniors and disabled veterans by supporting SB 76.

Thank you,

Tom Holland
Senator – 3rd District