

The Massachusetts Circuit Breaker Tax Credit

The **Massachusetts Circuit Breaker Tax Credit** is a state income tax credit for Massachusetts residents age 65 years or older who paid rent or real estate taxes during the tax year and meet additional criteria.

Homeowners are eligible for the credit if they paid more than 10 percent of their total income for real estate taxes, including water charges.

Renters can count 25 percent of their rent as real estate tax payments.

To Qualify For the Credit

You or your spouse must be 65 years or older by the end of the tax year

If married, you must file a joint state tax return

You cannot be the dependent of another taxpayer

You must rent or own a home in Massachusetts that is your principal residence

If you are a homeowner, your property's assessed value cannot exceed \$693,000

If you rent, you cannot also receive a federal or state rent subsidy and your landlord must pay property taxes

Income limits are: \$57,000 single; \$71,000 head of house-hold; \$85,000 married filing jointly

The amount you paid for real estate taxes must be greater than 10 percent of your total income

To Claim

To claim the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit, you must file a MA State Income Tax Return

Individuals may also be able to file retro-actively for the last three years.

Information regarding tax preparation and the criteria for the state's Circuit Breaker Tax Credit is available at The Center.