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The new property tax freeze is separate from the state's homestead exemption.

Application forms should be available by Sept. 1 and will be due by Dec. 1 for the following year.

 Seniors must apply through their municipalities for the property tax stabilization program and file a new application each year.

 Along with the age requirement, the law specifies applicants must be permanent Maine residents who have owned their home for at least 10 years and meet the requirements for the homestead exemption.

If a municipality determines an applicant is eligible, it will stabilize the property tax on that homestead for the tax year for which they requested the program.

 Municipalities in turn will apply to the state for a reimbursement for taxes based on any increased valuation on that property.

The stabilization is also transferable. An eligible homeowner who sells a home and buys another in Maine can pay their stabilized property tax amount, and their new municipality will receive the same state compensation.

"No more will seniors have to worry about whether they might someday be taxed out of their homes thanks to some County ingenuity and my caucus's support behind this important initiative," Stewart said.