

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
2012 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED  
**Committee on Community Affairs**

**CS/HB 357 — Homestead Exemptions for Seniors**

by Finance and Tax Committee and Rep. Oliva and others (CS/SB 1738 by Judiciary Committee and Senator Garcia)

This bill provides that the board of county commissioners or the governing body of a municipality may adopt an ordinance to allow an additional homestead exemption for certain low income seniors. The exemption would be equal to the assessed value of the property with a just value less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. A person qualifies for the potential additional homestead exemption if she or he has maintained permanent residence on the property for at least 25 years; has attained the age of 65; and has a household income that does not exceed \$20,000. The provisions of this bill require passage of an amendment to the Florida Constitution prior to implementation.

These provisions become effective upon approval of House Joint Resolution 169, or a similar joint resolution having substantially the same specific intent and purpose, at general election in November 2012 or earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose.

*Vote: Senate 39-0; House 115-0*