

Office of the Board of Assessors Robbins Memorial Town Hall Arlington, Massachusetts 02476

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Monday, April 29, 2024

Memo to Town Meeting Members

Regarding Warrant Article 21

Article 21 seeks to request a change (by the Legislature) to the language of Act 285 of the Acts of 2020 – Means Tested Senior Citizens Property Tax Exemption, recently adopted by vote of the Town. The added language would allow for an option (of the Select Board) to fund the exemption from existing funds instead of the prescribed funding method outlined in the Act. The language change is copied from Act 381 of the Acts of 2020, a similar Act relative to the Town of Hingham.

"or funded by an appropriation or transfer from existing funds"

However, in the course of estimating the potential amount of the Means Tested Senior Property Tax Exemption it has become obvious that the anticipated exemption amount exceeds the amounts feasible to fund via this option. As a result, it is clear the Exemption amount should continue to be funded as originally intended by the Act through a burden shift within the Residential tax class.

The Board of Assessors recommends "No Action" on Article 21.

Dana Mann, M.A.A. Director of Assessments Town of Arlington