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Tallahassee, Fla. – Representative Marie Woodson (D-Hollywood) and Senator Tina Polsky (D-Boca Raton) filed [HB 597](#) and [SB 1256](#) respectively which addresses the additional homestead exemption for seniors. Currently, persons 65 and older must submit a sworn statement of household income to their property appraisers on an annual basis to claim the additional homestead exemption. This bill revises the language so that these individuals need to submit the statement of household income only the first time they are claiming the exemption. The legislation also requires property appraisers to provide information related to income limitations on an annual basis. These bills will remove an undue burden from low income seniors who are likely on a fixed income that is unlikely to change year to year, those who may struggle to remember to submit the statement on an annual basis, and/or those who have difficulty navigating the system.

Representative Woodson and Senator Polsky stated, “Our bill is a long overdue step in helping our struggling seniors, especially during these unprecedented times. Each year, a great number of seniors fail to renew their exemption, losing valuable property tax savings for which they are eligible because of a cumbersome and confusing process in need of streamlining. The passage of this bill will greatly benefit our seniors while alleviating some of the burden placed on Florida Property Appraisers as a result of the process as it currently stands.”

Marty Kiar, Broward County Property Appraiser noted that, “The passage of this legislation will ensure that many low income seniors struggling to make ends meet will continue to receive the benefit of this important exemption through automatic renewal. **Representative Woodson’s** and **Senator Polsky’s** taxpayer friendly bill simplifies and streamlines the renewal process for Florida seniors while maintaining the integrity of the exemption.”

“Removing the annual renewal process for this valuable exemption will help low-income seniors in Florida,” said **Dorothy Jacks, Palm Beach County Property Appraiser**. “This proposed legislation would streamline seniors’ access to the

exemption each year and simplify the process for residents in need.”

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