

Hello VT Senate Committee on Finance,

I hope you will consider my following comments pertaining to H.461.

H.461 is titled "An act relating to excluding the income of asylum seekers and refugees from household income", but includes and amends the entirety of 32 V.S.A. § 6061(3). My comments neither address the subject matter of the title nor the bill's underlined text, but my comments are very relevant to the bill's content as a whole.

Please consider including another exemption to H.461's list of what "shall not be considered members of the household:".

The definitions of Household in current statute and in the bill before you do not exclude situations in which an owner-occupied house has bedrooms rented to persons unrelated to the owner. Usually, in these 'rooming house' situations, the renters contribute financially only for rent; they do not contribute anything else to the owner's and/or the house's finances. This is financially analogous to renters living in residential units of buildings separate from the owner's primary residence. In the latter case, the renters are legally not part of the owner's household. The same should be established in law for the former case: renters in a rooming house should not be considered members of the house-owner's household for the purposes of Homestead Property Tax Credit and Renter Credit.

Household members pool their financial resources to varying extents to meet their collective financial obligations and goals. Renters only pay rent and their share of utility bills to the owner; their presence in the owner's house is transactional.

Please understand that I have yet to learn whether the Committee's considerations and amendments are limited to the underlined text in a bill, or if the Committee may also consider and amend the entirety of the text in a bill.

Sincerely,  
Tom Mosakowski  
Brattleboro, VT