

STATEMENT

Matt Dunlap voted to tax seniors' Social Security benefits which would have been the first time in Maine history that seniors' Social Security was taxed. Now he wants a seat in Congress, where Social Security's future is decided every year.

Verification

Dunlap Voted To Tax Social Security Benefits, An Action That Then-Governor Angus King Vetoed Because It Would “Serve As A Disincentive For Many Retirees To Remain In Or Return To Maine's Work Force”

In June 1999, Dunlap Voted To Pass LD 1268. (LD 1268, [Maine State Legislative Record](#), Passed 87-57, Dunlap Voted Yea, 6/1/99)

In June 1999, LD 1268 Passed 87 To 57. (LD 1268, [Maine State Legislative Record](#), Passed 87-57, 6/1/99)

LD 1268 Taxed Social Security Benefits. “The bill, LD 1268, was the subject of thousands of objecting phone calls this week. The Legislature will return next week to consider any bills vetoed by the governor. And in a speech Friday morning in Portland, King said he also would veto a bill that gives workers 24 hours of paid leave a year to visit their children's teachers. Additional vetoes are expected. King said the tax bill would provide a \$ 6,000 exclusion in taxable income to recipients of state, federal or military retirement benefits. The cost of the exemption would be \$ 14.1 million and would be offset by taxing the previously exempt Social Security benefits of those earning more than \$25,000. (Emmet Meara, “King Vetoes Benefits Tax Bill Move Meant To Prevent Trend Of ‘Senior Flight,’” Bangor Daily News, 6/12/99)

In June 1999, Then-Governor Angus King Vetoed The Bill Which The Legislature Failed To Override. (LD 1268, [Maine Legislature Bill Tracking](#), Accessed 6/22/26)

Final Disposition

Veto Sustained, Jun 18, 1999
Governor's Action: Veto, Jun 11, 1999

(LD 1268, [Maine Legislature Bill Tracking](#), Accessed 6/22/26)

In June 1999, King Said There Was “No Compelling Reason” To Pass The Bill Because It Would “Serve As A Disincentive For Many Retirees To Remain In Or Return To Maine's Work Force.” “King said there was ‘no compelling reason’ to follow the lead of the federal government, which taxes some Social Security benefits to relieve pressure on the retirement system. ‘While I can appreciate the intent of the bill to provide public pension relief, I cannot justify the imposition of the supporting tax burden squarely on the shoulders of other Maine retirees,’ King said. ‘The new tax would serve as a disincentive for many retirees to remain in or return to Maine's work force,’ King said.” (Emmet Meara, “King Vetoes Benefits Tax Bill Move Meant To Prevent Trend Of ‘Senior Flight,’” Bangor Daily News, 6/12/99)

Maine Does Not Have An Income Tax On Social Security Benefits. “Maine already offered significant income tax benefits to older Mainers including: No income tax on social security income” (Sarah Austin, “Opinion: New Tax Relief Plan Will Disproportionately Benefit Wealthy Seniors,” [Maine Beacon](#), 8/30/22)