TOWN OF LYME
ORDINANCE AMENDING ELDERLY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

Be it ordained by the Town of Lyme ("Town"), acting by Town Meeting, its legislative body:

WHEREAS, in 2007, to mitigate rising property tax increases for Lyme's senior citizens, Town Meeting adopted Ordinance 2007-1, an amendment to the Town Elderly Tax Relief Program (the "Program"), which was codified in Chapter 279 of the Town Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Finance and Board of Selectpersons wish to update the Program to (i) increase income limits, (ii) conform Program terms to the State Circuit Breaker Tax Relief Program, and (iii) permit the Assessor to increase the Program's income limits to conform to the state program limits as established from time to time by the state legislature.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Town Code Sections 279-3(B) and 279-3(C) are hereby deleted in their entirety and replaced with the following, with revised income limits to be applied to property taxes first payable on July 1, 2025, pursuant to the Grand List of October 1, 2024:

(B) The Elderly Tax Relief Benefit shall be available to taxpayers, their spouses or civil union partners whose "qualifying income" does not exceed the limits as set forth in subsection C below for the tax year ending immediately preceding the application for tax relief benefits.

"Qualifying Income" shall be defined as all taxable and nontaxable income. All monies received unless specifically exempted, including but not limited to wages, bonuses, commissions, gratuities and fees, self-employment net income, net Social Security Income, payment for jury duty, dividends and interest, IRA income to the extent that is taxable, interest or proceeds resulting from gifts received, lottery winnings, net income from sale or rent of real or personal property, pensions and annuities to the extent that it is taxable, including veterans and railroad retirement, severance pay, unemployment compensation, workers' compensation, alimony, capital gains total from previous year only, and all other sources of income as defined by the Office of Policy and Management. Specifically excluded are Social Security payments specifically for a dependent person, casualty loss reimbursements by insurance companies, non-taxable gifts, bequests or inheritances (although interest or other income produced by gift, bequest or inheritance must be included), grants for disaster relief, life insurance proceeds and all other exempt sources of income as defined by the Office of Policy and Management. Evidence of such income shall be required, and a signed affidavit shall be submitted to the Lyme Assessor when application for benefits under this Program is filed.

(C) To be eligible for the elderly tax relief benefit, all such taxpayers or their spouses or civil union partners shall have been taxpayers of the Town of Lyme for not less than five (5) years as of the first day of October prior to the filing period and whose Qualifying Income is equal or below the limits set forth under § 12-170aa of the Connecticut General Statutes, which shall be adjusted annually by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and distributed to the assessor not later than the thirty-first day of December annually.

Adopted: Town Meeting May 22, 2025
Published: _____, 2024
Effective Date: 15 days after publication