

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1257 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY PROBST, McNEILL, MADDEN, GIRAL, SANCHEZ, SOLOMON, HILL-EVANS, PIELLI, SAPPEY, NEILSON, HOHENSTEIN, DEASY, KAZEEM, MENTZER, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, HADDOCK, SCOTT, D. WILLIAMS, STEELE, GREEN, CONKLIN, CIRESI AND DOUGHERTY, APRIL 17, 2025

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 16, 2025

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for exemptions and special
3 provisions.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby resolves as follows:

6 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
7 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

8 That section 2(c) of Article VIII be amended to read:

9 § 2. Exemptions and special provisions.

10 * * *

11 (c) [Citizens and residents of this Commonwealth, who served
12 in any war or armed conflict in which the United States was
13 engaged and were honorably discharged or released under
14 honorable circumstances from active service, shall be exempt
15 from the payment of all real property taxes upon the residence
16 occupied by the said citizens and residents of this Commonwealth

1 imposed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or any of its
2 political subdivisions if, as a result of military service, they
3 are blind, paraplegic or double or quadruple amputees or have a
4 service-connected disability declared by the United States
5 Veterans Administration or its successor to be a total or 100%
6 permanent disability, and if the State Veterans' Commission
7 determines that such persons are in need of the tax exemptions
8 granted herein. This exemption shall be extended to the
9 unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of an eligible veteran
10 provided that the State Veterans' Commission determines that
11 such person is in need of the exemption.] ~~A veteran of the~~ <--
12 ~~United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component of the~~
13 ~~United States Armed Forces, who has been rated by the United~~
14 ~~State Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor as 100%~~
15 ~~permanent and totally disabled or compensated at the 100%~~
16 ~~disability rate through a Federal program that provides~~
17 ~~compensation to veterans who are unable to work due to a~~
18 ~~service connected disability shall be exempt from payment of~~
19 ~~real property taxes. A political subdivision may, by ordinance~~
20 ~~or resolution, exempt a veteran with a disability rated or~~
21 ~~compensated at any level below 100% from payment of any portion~~
22 ~~of real property taxes. This subsection shall apply to the~~
23 ~~unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of an eligible~~
24 ~~veteran, as well as the unmarried surviving spouses of service~~
25 ~~members who died in the line of duty, are taken as prisoners of~~
26 ~~war or declared missing in action. A VETERAN OF THE ARMED FORCES~~ <--
27 ~~OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING A RESERVE COMPONENT OR THE~~
28 ~~NATIONAL GUARD, WITH A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY WHO HAS BEEN~~
29 ~~DISCHARGED OR RELEASED FROM SERVICE UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN~~
30 ~~DISHONORABLE SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY~~

1 TAXES IMPOSED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OR ANY OF ITS POLITICAL
2 SUBDIVISIONS ON THE PRIMARY RESIDENCE OCCUPIED BY THE VETERAN AS
3 FOLLOWS:

4 (1) IF THE VETERAN HAS BEEN RATED BY THE UNITED STATES
5 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OR ITS SUCCESSOR AS NOT LESS THAN
6 50% DISABLED UP TO 100% DISABLED, THE VETERAN SHALL BE EXEMPT
7 FROM THE PAYMENT OF A PORTION OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES EQUIVALENT
8 TO THE DISABILITY RATING OF THE VETERAN.

9 (2) A VETERAN WHO IS COMPENSATED AT THE 100% DISABILITY RATE
10 THROUGH A FEDERAL PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES COMPENSATION TO VETERANS
11 WHO ARE UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY AND
12 THE UNMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A SERVICE MEMBER WHO DIED IN
13 THE LINE OF DUTY, WAS TAKEN AS A PRISONER OF WAR OR WAS DECLARED
14 MISSING IN ACTION SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM THE PAYMENT OF ALL REAL
15 PROPERTY TAXES.

16 (3) THE EXEMPTION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL APPLY TO THE
17 UNMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A VETERAN WHO WAS DEEMED ELIGIBLE
18 FOR THE EXEMPTION PRIOR TO THE DEATH OF THE ELIGIBLE VETERAN.

19 Section 2. The following procedure applies to the proposed
20 constitutional amendment in this joint resolution:

21 (1) Upon the first passage by the General Assembly of
22 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
23 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
24 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
25 of Pennsylvania.

26 (2) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of
27 the amendment, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
28 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
29 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
30 of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall

1 submit the amendment to the qualified electors of this
2 Commonwealth at the first general or municipal election which
3 meets the requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
4 Constitution of Pennsylvania.