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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 916 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, BAKER, GREENLEAF, ALLOWAY, FONTANA,  
STACK, BREWSTER, WAUGH, RAFFERTY, COSTA, HUGHES, SCHWANK,  
KASUNIC, YUDICHAK AND SOLOBAY, MAY 6, 2013

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REFERRED TO FINANCE, MAY 6, 2013

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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  
17 imposed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or any of its

1 political subdivisions if, as a result of military service, they  
2 are blind, paraplegic or double or quadruple amputees or have a  
3 service-connected disability declared by the United States  
4 [Veterans Administration] Department of Veterans Affairs or its  
5 successor to be a total or 100% service-connected and permanent  
6 disability[, and if the State Veterans' Commission determines  
7 that such persons are in need of the tax exemptions granted  
8 herein]. This exemption shall be extended to the unmarried  
9 surviving spouse upon the death of an eligible veteran [provided  
10 that the State Veterans' Commission determines that such person  
11 is in need of the exemption.] and, after the death of an  
12 eligible veteran resulting from a service-connected injury or  
13 disease, as determined by the United States Department of  
14 Veterans Affairs or its successor, to the unmarried surviving  
15 spouse of a person killed in action performing active duty in  
16 the armed forces of the United States in war or armed conflict  
17 or as a result of peacetime terrorist attack or hostile action  
18 as determined by the Adjutant General.

19 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
20 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the  
21 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to  
22 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article  
23 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the  
24 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in  
25 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after  
26 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

27 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this  
28 proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the  
29 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the  
30 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the

1 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required  
2 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such  
3 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of  
4 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the  
5 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment  
6 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first  
7 primary, general or municipal election which meets the  
8 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article  
9 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least  
10 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is  
11 passed by the General Assembly.