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Senate of Pennsylvania

January 13, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators

FROM:  Senator Lisa Baker

SUBJECT: Constitutional Amendment for Disabled Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemption

Please join me in co-sponsoring a constitutional amendment to provide for a change in the Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption Program.

The State Veterans Commission is the entity given the authority to oversee the real estate tax exemption provided for 100% disabled veterans. The Commission voted in June 2010 to approve legislative recommendations to address three separate issues. Two of their recommendations require enactment through statute and one of the recommendations calls for a constitutional amendment. This legislation will address the issue requiring a constitutional amendment.

Specifically, it will amend Article VIII, Section 2(c) of the PA Constitution to extend eligibility of the tax exemption to the surviving spouse of Pennsylvania members of the Armed Forces who were killed in action or died of a service-connected death. The spouse would however still be required to demonstrate need for the exemption as determined by the State Veterans Commission.

If you wish to co-sponsor this proposal, please contact Liz Clancy at LClancy@pasen.gov or by phone 787-7428. If you or your staff has any questions on the legislation, please contact Aaron Shenck at ashenck@pasen.gov or by phone.

Thank you.

LB/ams

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