

Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission

SVC RETX Committee Memorandum

October 14, 2021

Justin D. Slep, PSACDVA President

Mr. Chairman,

The purpose of this memorandum is to outline the vote that was made and passed at the State Veterans Commission (SVC) meeting on October 8, 2021.

The vote was made to create a unanimous position for the SVC to take pertaining to the Veterans Pennsylvania Real-estate Tax Program (RETX).

Beginning October 8, 2021 and moving forward, the SVC will advocate and pursue any and all matters pertaining to RETX with the following conditions included but not limited to:

- Remove armed conflict or Wartime service requirement
- Extend RETX to surviving spouse of those that died in the line of duty, missing in action, or determined posthumously to be 100% disabled (Permanent)
- Remove any KIA language and replace with "died in the line of duty"
- Allow Veterans who reside in a Long Term Care facility to still receive the exemption
- Removing VA Compensation from the financial determination regulations at the SVC level
 - The committee has agreed and recommends that VA Compensation be removed from the financial determination through the regulatory review process [43 PA Code, Section 5.22, Definition of Income]. The members of the SVC and DMVA can work together to remove this section and exempt VA Compensation from the financial determination section within the regulations. The committee wants to focus on making positive regulation changes versus regulations being placed in Bills.
- Definition of "**were honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances**"
 - The definition will follow 38 U.S. Code § 101 Paragraph 18
 - The term "discharge or release" includes (A) retirement from the active military, naval, air, or space service, and (B) the satisfactory completion of the period of active military, naval, air, or space service for which a person was obligated at the time of entry into such service in the case of a person who, due to enlistment or reenlistment, was not awarded a discharge or release from such period of service at the time of such completion thereof and who, at such time, would otherwise have been eligible for the award of a discharge or release under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Permanent and Total or Compensated at 100% definition

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- rated as 100% permanent and totally disabled or compensated at the 100% disability rate through the Individual Unemployability program by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- Adopt DMVA's document titled "Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption (RETX) Program as approved talking points on DMVA's official position on the changes outlined on their authored document pertaining to the RETX Program

VJR

Justin D. Slep