

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 813 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY PISTELLA, BARRAR, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI,
BIANCUCCI, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, COSTA, FICHTER,
GEORGE, GERGELY, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI,
HENNESSEY, JAMES, KOTIK, LEACH, LEDERER, LESCOVITZ, MANN,
MARKOSEK, McCALL, PALLONE, PETRARCA, READSHAW, ROONEY,
SAINATO, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SOLOBAY, STABACK, R. STEVENSON,
E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, WALKO AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 14, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, MARCH 14, 2005

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for persons with military
3 service-connected disabilities to receive property tax
4 exemptions.

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

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

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

10 § 2. Exemptions and special provisions.

11 * * *

12 (c) Citizens and residents of this Commonwealth, who served
13 in [any war or armed conflict in which the United States was
14 engaged] the armed forces of the United States and were
15 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
16 from active service, shall be exempt from the payment of [all]

1 real property taxes upon the residence occupied by the said
2 citizens and residents of this Commonwealth imposed by the
3 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or any of its political
4 subdivisions if, as a result of military service, they are
5 blind, paraplegic or double or quadruple amputees or have a
6 service-connected disability declared by the United States
7 Veterans Administration or its successor to be a [total or 100%]
8 permanent disability[, and if the State Veterans' Commission
9 determines that such persons are in need of the tax exemptions
10 granted herein]. The percentage of exemption from real property
11 taxes shall be in direct proportion to the percentage of
12 disability as determined by the United States Department of
13 Veterans Affairs or its successor. This exemption shall be
14 extended to the unmarried surviving spouse upon the death of an
15 eligible veteran [provided that the State Veterans' Commission
16 determines that such person is in need of the exemption].

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

25 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this
26 proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the
27 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the
28 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
29 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
30 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such

1 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of
2 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the
3 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment
4 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first
5 primary, general or municipal election occurring at least three
6 months after the proposed constitutional amendment is passed by
7 the General Assembly.