
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 239 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, BARTOLOTTA, SCARNATI, COSTA, AUMENT,
BAKER, BLAKE, BREWSTER, BROOKS, EICHELBERGER, GREENLEAF,
HUTCHINSON, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER,
SABATINA, SCAVELLO, STEFANO, VOGEL, WAGNER, WARD AND
YUDICHAK, JANUARY 26, 2017

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
JANUARY 26, 2017

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth
2 of Pennsylvania, in taxation and finance, further providing
3 for exemptions and special 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] a portion of real property taxes upon
16 the residence occupied by the said citizens and residents of

1 this Commonwealth imposed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or
2 any of its political subdivisions if, as a result of military
3 service, they are blind, paraplegic or double or quadruple
4 amputees or have a service-connected disability declared by the
5 United States [Veterans Administration] Department of Veterans
6 Affairs or its successor to be a [total or 100%] permanent
7 disability of 50% or greater, and if the State Veterans'
8 Commission determines that such persons are in need of the tax
9 exemptions granted herein. The percentage of exemption from real
10 property taxes shall be in direct proportion to the percentage
11 of disability. This exemption shall be extended to the unmarried
12 surviving spouse upon the death of an eligible veteran provided
13 that the State Veterans' Commission determines that such person
14 is in need of the exemption.

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

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

1 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment
2 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first
3 primary, general or municipal election which meets the
4 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article
5 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least
6 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is
7 passed by the General Assembly.