
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1570 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MACKENZIE, GILLEN, SAINATO, BROWN, CIRESI, DEASY,
GALLOWAY, GROVE, HAHN, HILL-EVANS, KIRKLAND, LAWRENCE,
LONGIETTI, MARKOSEK, PETRARCA, RAPP, READSHAW, SCHMITT,
YOUNGBLOOD AND ZIMMERMAN, JUNE 4, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, JUNE 4, 2019

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 and the section
9 be amended by adding subsections 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 and] were honorably discharged or released under
15 honorable circumstances from active service, shall be exempt
16 from the payment of all real property taxes upon the residence
17 occupied by the said citizens and residents of this Commonwealth

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

13 (d) The surviving spouse of any member of the armed forces
14 of the United States who was killed in action in any war or
15 armed conflict as determined by the United States Department of
16 Defense, or who died as a result of injuries received while in
17 active service in any war or armed conflict, shall be exempt
18 from the payment of all real property taxes on the surviving
19 spouse's primary place of residence imposed by the Commonwealth
20 of Pennsylvania or any of its political subdivisions if the
21 State Veterans' Commission determines that such person is in
22 need of the exemption. There shall be no restriction on a
23 surviving spouse who is eligible for an exemption under this
24 subsection if the surviving spouse relocated to another primary
25 place of residence or the surviving spouse resides outside of
26 this Commonwealth at the time of death of the member of the
27 armed forces of the United States. The exemption under this
28 subsection shall cease if the surviving spouse remarries and
29 shall not be claimed thereafter.

30 (e) After an exemption has been approved under subsection

1 (c) or (d), the amount of real property taxes due for the
2 applicable tax year shall be prorated from the date the
3 application for the exemption is received by the State Veterans'
4 Commission.

5 Section 2. The addition of section 2(d) of Article VIII of
6 the Constitution of Pennsylvania shall apply to the surviving
7 spouse of any member of the armed forces of the United States
8 who, on or after the ratification of this proposed
9 constitutional amendment by the qualified electors of this
10 Commonwealth, was killed in action in any war or armed conflict
11 as determined by the United States Department of Defense or died
12 as a result of injuries received while in active service in any
13 war or armed conflict.

14 Section 3. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
15 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the
16 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
17 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
18 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
19 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
20 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
21 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

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

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