

HB0130



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB0130

Introduced 1/14/2021, by Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

35 ILCS 200/15-169

Amends the Property Tax Code. In a Section granting a homestead exemption to veterans with disabilities, provides that property that is used as a qualified residence by a veteran who was a member of the United States Armed Forces during World War II is exempt from taxation regardless of the veteran's level of disability. Provides that a veteran who qualifies as a result of his or her service in World War II need not reapply for the exemption. Effective immediately.

LRB102 04282 HLH 14300 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY
IMPACT NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning revenue.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Property Tax Code is amended by changing
5 Section 15-169 as follows:

6 (35 ILCS 200/15-169)

7 Sec. 15-169. Homestead exemption for veterans with
8 disabilities and veterans of World War II.

9 (a) Beginning with taxable year 2007, an annual homestead
10 exemption, limited to the amounts set forth in subsections (b)
11 and (b-3), is granted for property that is used as a qualified
12 residence by a veteran with a disability.

13 (b) For taxable years prior to 2015, the amount of the
14 exemption under this Section is as follows:

15 (1) for veterans with a service-connected disability
16 of at least (i) 75% for exemptions granted in taxable
17 years 2007 through 2009 and (ii) 70% for exemptions
18 granted in taxable year 2010 and each taxable year
19 thereafter, as certified by the United States Department
20 of Veterans Affairs, the annual exemption is \$5,000; and

21 (2) for veterans with a service-connected disability
22 of at least 50%, but less than (i) 75% for exemptions
23 granted in taxable years 2007 through 2009 and (ii) 70%

1 for exemptions granted in taxable year 2010 and each
2 taxable year thereafter, as certified by the United States
3 Department of Veterans Affairs, the annual exemption is
4 \$2,500.

5 (b-3) For taxable years 2015 and thereafter:

6 (1) if the veteran has a service connected disability
7 of 30% or more but less than 50%, as certified by the
8 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, then the
9 annual exemption is \$2,500;

10 (2) if the veteran has a service connected disability
11 of 50% or more but less than 70%, as certified by the
12 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, then the
13 annual exemption is \$5,000; and

14 (3) if the veteran has a service connected disability
15 of 70% or more, as certified by the United States
16 Department of Veterans Affairs, then the property is
17 exempt from taxation under this Code; beginning in taxable
18 year 2021, if the veteran was a member of the United States
19 Armed Forces during World War II, then the property is
20 exempt from taxation under this Code regardless of the
21 veteran's level of disability.

22 (b-5) If a homestead exemption is granted under this
23 Section and the person awarded the exemption subsequently
24 becomes a resident of a facility licensed under the Nursing
25 Home Care Act or a facility operated by the United States
26 Department of Veterans Affairs, then the exemption shall

1 continue (i) so long as the residence continues to be occupied
2 by the qualifying person's spouse or (ii) if the residence
3 remains unoccupied but is still owned by the person who
4 qualified for the homestead exemption.

5 (c) The tax exemption under this Section carries over to
6 the benefit of the veteran's surviving spouse as long as the
7 spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead,
8 permanently resides thereon, and does not remarry. If the
9 surviving spouse sells the property, an exemption not to
10 exceed the amount granted from the most recent ad valorem tax
11 roll may be transferred to his or her new residence as long as
12 it is used as his or her primary residence and he or she does
13 not remarry.

14 (c-1) Beginning with taxable year 2015, nothing in this
15 Section shall require the veteran to have qualified for or
16 obtained the exemption before death if the veteran was killed
17 in the line of duty.

18 (d) The exemption under this Section applies for taxable
19 year 2007 and thereafter. A taxpayer who claims an exemption
20 under Section 15-165 or 15-168 may not claim an exemption
21 under this Section.

22 (e) Each taxpayer who has been granted an exemption under
23 this Section must reapply on an annual basis, provided that a
24 veteran who qualifies as a result of his or her service in
25 World War II need not reapply. Application must be made during
26 the application period in effect for the county of his or her

1 residence. The assessor or chief county assessment officer may
2 determine the eligibility of residential property to receive
3 the homestead exemption provided by this Section by
4 application, visual inspection, questionnaire, or other
5 reasonable methods. The determination must be made in
6 accordance with guidelines established by the Department.

7 (e-1) If the person qualifying for the exemption does not
8 occupy the qualified residence as of January 1 of the taxable
9 year, the exemption granted under this Section shall be
10 prorated on a monthly basis. The prorated exemption shall
11 apply beginning with the first complete month in which the
12 person occupies the qualified residence.

13 (e-5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each
14 chief county assessment officer may approve this exemption for
15 the 2020 taxable year, without application, for any property
16 that was approved for this exemption for the 2019 taxable
17 year, provided that:

18 (1) the county board has declared a local disaster as
19 provided in the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act
20 related to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

21 (2) the owner of record of the property as of January
22 1, 2020 is the same as the owner of record of the property
23 as of January 1, 2019;

24 (3) the exemption for the 2019 taxable year has not
25 been determined to be an erroneous exemption as defined by
26 this Code; and

1 (4) the applicant for the 2019 taxable year has not
2 asked for the exemption to be removed for the 2019 or 2020
3 taxable years.

4 Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a veteran whose
5 service connected disability rating has changed since the 2019
6 exemption was granted from applying for the exemption based on
7 the subsequent service connected disability rating.

8 (f) For the purposes of this Section:

9 "Qualified residence" means real property, but less any
10 portion of that property that is used for commercial purposes,
11 with an equalized assessed value of less than \$250,000 that is
12 the primary residence of a veteran with a disability. Property
13 rented for more than 6 months is presumed to be used for
14 commercial purposes.

15 "Veteran" means an Illinois resident who has served as a
16 member of the United States Armed Forces on active duty or
17 State active duty, a member of the Illinois National Guard, or
18 a member of the United States Reserve Forces and who has
19 received an honorable discharge.

20 (Source: P.A. 100-869, eff. 8-14-18; 101-635, eff. 6-5-20.)

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
22 becoming law.