

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2655**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***John C. Velis***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act clarifying disabled veteran's motor vehicle-related tax and fee exemptions.

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                            | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                   | DATE ADDED:      |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>John C. Velis</i>             | <i>4th Hampden</i>                  | <i>1/16/2019</i> |
| <i>James Arciero</i>             | <i>2nd Middlesex</i>                | <i>2/1/2019</i>  |
| <i>Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.</i> | <i>5th Worcester</i>                | <i>1/31/2019</i> |
| <i>Daniel Cahill</i>             | <i>10th Essex</i>                   | <i>1/23/2019</i> |
| <i>William L. Crocker, Jr.</i>   | <i>2nd Barnstable</i>               | <i>1/23/2019</i> |
| <i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>        | <i>8th Plymouth</i>                 | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>Shawn Dooley</i>              | <i>9th Norfolk</i>                  | <i>1/22/2019</i> |
| <i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>      | <i>1st Worcester</i>                | <i>1/29/2019</i> |
| <i>Carlos González</i>           | <i>10th Hampden</i>                 | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>      | <i>4th Middlesex</i>                | <i>1/24/2019</i> |
| <i>James K. Hawkins</i>          | <i>2nd Bristol</i>                  | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>Stephan Hay</i>               | <i>3rd Worcester</i>                | <i>1/22/2019</i> |
| <i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>    | <i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i> | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>Joseph D. McKenna</i>         | <i>18th Worcester</i>               | <i>1/31/2019</i> |
| <i>Paul McMurtry</i>             | <i>11th Norfolk</i>                 | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>        | <i>1st Plymouth</i>                 | <i>1/29/2019</i> |
| <i>Brian W. Murray</i>           | <i>10th Worcester</i>               | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>James J. O'Day</i>            | <i>14th Worcester</i>               | <i>1/29/2019</i> |

|                               |                                  |                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Thomas M. Petrolati</i>    | <i>7th Hampden</i>               | <i>1/25/2019</i> |
| <i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i> | <i>12th Hampden</i>              | <i>1/23/2019</i> |
| <i>David Allen Robertson</i>  | <i>19th Middlesex</i>            | <i>1/29/2019</i> |
| <i>Todd M. Smola</i>          | <i>1st Hampden</i>               | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>Michael J. Soter</i>       | <i>8th Worcester</i>             | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>          | <i>First Essex and Middlesex</i> | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>José F. Tosado</i>         | <i>9th Hampden</i>               | <i>1/25/2019</i> |
| <i>Steven Ultrino</i>         | <i>33rd Middlesex</i>            | <i>1/29/2019</i> |
| <i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>     | <i>2nd Franklin</i>              | <i>1/30/2019</i> |
| <i>Bud L. Williams</i>        | <i>11th Hampden</i>              | <i>1/30/2019</i> |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2655**

By Mr. Velis of Westfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2655) of John C. Velis and others relative to motor vehicle-related tax and fee exemptions for certain disabled veterans. Revenue.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3353 OF 2017-2018.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act clarifying disabled veteran's motor vehicle-related tax and fee exemptions.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Chapter 60A of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing  
2 in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the following from lines 101  
3 through 104:-

4 "by reason of service in the armed forces of the United States, has suffered loss, or  
5 permanent loss of use of, one or both feet, or loss, or permanent loss of use of, one or both hands,  
6 or has been determined by the medical advisory board established under section 8C of chapter 90  
7 to be permanently disabled;"

8 and in place thereof inserting the following words:-

9 "suffers from a service-connected combined disability rating of 60% or more, provided  
10 that such a disability rating has been verified by said Administration with written documentation  
11 and the signature of a licensed Massachusetts physician, or who has been determined to be  
12 permanently disabled by the medical advisory board established under section 8C of chapter 90  
13 and is eligible for a disabled veteran number plate under section 2 of said chapter 90;"

14 SECTION 2. Section 6, subsection (u) of Chapter 64H of the Massachusetts General  
15 Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 350-  
16 352 the following:

17 "and has been issued a disabled veteran number plate under section 2 of said chapter 90."

18 and inserting in place thereof the following words:-

19 "and is eligible for a disabled veteran number plate under section 2 of said chapter 90, or  
20 by and for the use of a veteran who, according to the records of the United States Veterans  
21 Administration, suffers from a service-connected combined disability rating of 60% or more,  
22 provided that such a disability rating has been verified by said Administration with written  
23 documentation and the signature of a licensed Massachusetts physician."

24 SECTION 3. Section 33(29) of chapter 90 is hereby amended by striking out the  
25 following words:-

26 "by a disabled veteran who is entitled to display thereon the distinctive number plates  
27 authorized by section 2"

28 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

29 "a veteran, as defined in section 7 of chapter 4, who according to the records of the  
30 United States Veterans Administration, suffers from a service-connected combined disability  
31 rating of 60% or more, provided that such a disability rating has been verified by said  
32 Administration with written documentation and the signature of a licensed Massachusetts  
33 physician, or who has been determined to be permanently disabled by the medical advisory  
34 board established under section 8C of chapter 90 and is eligible for a disabled veteran number  
35 plate under section 2 of said chapter 90,"

36 SECTION 4. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as amending the requirements set forth  
37 by the Medical Advisory Board of the Registry of Motor Vehicles to qualify for Disabled  
38 Veterans number plates as authorized in under section 2 of chapter 90.

39 SECTION 5. The exemptions herein shall apply to any disabled veteran who qualifies for  
40 disabled veteran number plates as determined by the Medical Advisory Board, even if they  
41 choose not to use said plates. It shall also apply to veterans who have documentation proving  
42 they suffer from a combined service-connected disability rating of 60% or more, as determined  
43 by the United States Veterans Administration, who do not go through the Medical Advisory  
44 Board process, as they do not have a specific handicap that would qualify them for disabled  
45 veteran number plates.

46 SECTION 6. The authority responsible for administering fees and taxes amended herein  
47 may govern the process by which an eligible disabled veteran applies for exemption, so long as  
48 such processes do not reasonably preclude eligible persons from applying and receiving said  
49 exemptions in a timely manner.

50           SECTION 7. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to mean that written documentation  
51 from the Veterans Administration must be verified by a doctor working at said Administration.  
52 Any signature from a licensed Massachusetts physician who would have reasonable knowledge  
53 that the Veteran's Administration documentation is true, shall have the authority to verify the  
54 disability rating.