

## COMMITTEE ON REVENUE ~ HOUSE BILL SUMMARY

**Bill Number:** H.3131 (similar to S.2072)

**Name:** AN ACT INCENTIVIZING VETERANS TO RESIDE IN THE COMMONWEALTH

**Sponsor(s):** Rep. Vanna Howard (Lowell); 2023-24 session Rep. Smitty Pignatelli (Lenox)

**Hearing Date:** June 24, 2025

**Reporting Date:** August 23, 2025

**Prior History:** 2023-24 (H.2924): Accompanied H.4162; Reported favorably; Referred to House Ways and Means

**CURRENT LAW:**

*M.G.L. c. 59 § 5 – Property tax exemptions:* Real and personal property is taxed by the municipality where it is located based on its fair cash value. However, certain items of property or portions thereof are exempted from taxation for residents meeting certain criteria, including age, income, disability and/or veteran status.

*Clause 22<sup>a</sup> – Soldiers and sailors exemptions:* Taxpayers may apply for an exemption of \$2,000 of assessed taxable valuation or an abatement of \$400, whichever results in greater reduction of taxes due, subject to the following initial/threshold criteria:

- Veterans (last discharge must not have been dishonorable)
- Domiciled in Massachusetts for at least 6 months prior to entering military service or resided in the Commonwealth for 5 consecutive years next prior to date of filing for this exemption
- Real estate must be occupied in whole or in part as domicile

Clauses 22<sup>a</sup>-A through 22<sup>a</sup>-F all provide exemptions/abatements for soldiers and sailors and their spouses meeting certain criteria in addition to the base criteria required above, but with increasing exemption/abatement amounts as follows:

Clause	Additional Criteria	Exemption/Abatement Amount
22 <sup>a</sup> -A	Veterans (or spouses) who lost a foot, hand, or eye (or sight therein) OR who were awarded the congressional medal of honor, the distinguished service cross, the navy cross or the air force cross	\$4,000 of assessed taxable valuation or \$750, whichever results in greater reduction of taxes due
22 <sup>a</sup> -B	Veterans (or spouses) who lost permanent use of both feet, both hands, one foot and one hand, or sight in both eyes	\$8,000 of assessed taxable valuation or \$1,250, whichever results in greater reduction of taxes due
22 <sup>a</sup> -C	Veterans (or spouses) who suffered in the line of duty total disability and has specially adapted housing	\$10,000 of assessed taxable valuation or \$1,500, whichever results in greater reduction of taxes due
22 <sup>a</sup> -D	Surviving spouses of service member who suffered a service-related injury or illness, on	Full amount of taxable valuation of real property

	active duty, which was the proximate cause of death or who is missing in action with a presumptive finding of death as a result of active duty service	
22- E	Veterans (or spouses) who suffered in the line of duty total disability and are incapable of working	\$6,000 of assessed taxable valuation or \$1,000, whichever results in greater reduction of taxes due
22- F	Veterans (or spouses) who are certified by the VA as paraplegic	Full amount of taxable valuation of real property

These clauses also include requirements that a portion of the cost of the exemption be borne by the municipality and the rest shall be reimbursed by the commonwealth.

**PROPOSED CHANGE(S):**

This bill changes the residency requirement to one full year of residency in Massachusetts before being eligible for the Veteran's exemption, instead of the current 5 year waiting period, incentivizing veterans to move to the Commonwealth to receive this added benefit.