

COMMITTEE ON REVENUE ~ HOUSE BILL SUMMARY

Bill Number: H.3245 (similar to S.1988)

Name: AN ACT RELATIVE TO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR 100% DISABLED VETERANS

Sponsor(s): Rep. Michael Soter (Bellingham)

Hearing Date: June 24, 2025

Reporting Date: August 23, 2025

Prior History: 2023-24 (H.2954): Accompanied H.4162; Reported favorably; Referred to House Ways and Means
2021-22 (H.3069): Reported favorably; referred to House Steering

CURRENT LAW:

M.G.L. c. 59 – Property tax: All property, real and personal, situated within the Commonwealth is subject to local tax, unless expressly exempt.

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 example, residents meeting certain criteria, including age, income, disability and/or veteran status are able to obtain complete or partial property tax exemptions. Certain property may be exempt due to the purpose it serves, such as providing renewable energy.

Clause 22 – 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-A through 22-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-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-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- 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- D	Surviving spouses of service member who suffered a service-related injury or illness, on 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	Full amount of taxable valuation of real property
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 amends Clause Twenty-Second C of Section 5 of chapter 59 so that any veteran who has been rated 100 percent service-connected permanent and total disability, may receive a full property tax exemption on the real property that the veteran resides in as his/her primary residence, provided, that such real estate is owned or deeded in the name of the qualified veteran or his or her spouse. Current law requires the veteran to have specially adapted housing, and offers an abatement of ten thousand dollars of the taxable valuation of real property or the sum of \$1,500, whichever would result in an abatement of the greater amount of actual taxes due.