

Veterans H.O.M.E Act

S.2325 An Act Relative to Housing, Operations, Military Service, and Enrichment

Summary

- 1 Expands on the commitment the Massachusetts Senate has made to our veterans, service members and their families by providing benefits and services.
- 2 Requires housing authorities to exclude amounts of disability compensation paid by the federal government to calculate the rent of a disabled veteran.
- 3 Gives eligible veterans a preference in housing for the elderly and persons with disabilities in all communities, not only just the community in which the veteran resides.
- 4 Provides a property tax exemption for the surviving spouse of any soldier, sailor, member of the National Guard or veteran who suffered an injury or illness which was the proximate cause of death during active duty service.



The bill was sponsored by Senator Michael F. Rush (D-Quincy)



Senator Michael F. Rush

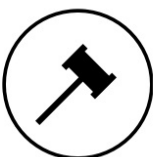
@SenatorMikeRush

Chair, Joint Committee on Veterans and
Federal Affairs

Chair, Senate Committee on Personnel and
Administration



The legislation was passed on
June 16, 2016



Passed Unanimously

STATUS



Signed into Law

Focusing on housing and long-term support, the passage of the Veterans HOME Act continues the strong reputation that Massachusetts has as a leader in understanding the sacrifice that military personnel and their families make not only while on active duty, but also after returning home.

Other provisions of this Act include:

- Expands the Public Service Scholarship to include children of any military or service person missing in action and children of prisoners of war.
- Protects the pay, seniority and accrued leave time for Commonwealth employees serving in the armed forces reserves.
- Allows cities and towns to appoint a veteran's agent for 3 year terms instead of the current 1 year term.
- Establishes the Office of Veterans Homes and Housing within the Department of Veterans Services to oversee the Soldiers Home in Chelsea and in Holyoke.
- Creates a post-deployment commission to study ways to improve services to veterans who have been deployed overseas.
- Adds veteran status as a protected class under the statute prohibiting discrimination in employment.

INFOGRAPHICS



VETERANS BENEFITS

Housing authorities to exclude amounts of disability compensation paid by the U.S. Government in making rent determinations. The language provides that in determining net income, amounts of disability compensation for disability occurring in connection with military service in excess of \$1,800 shall be excluded

H.O.M.E. Act

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