



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 5491

LCO No. 2509



Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

Introduced by:
(FIN)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS WHO HAVE A SERVICE-CONNECTED PERMANENT AND TOTAL DISABILITY RATING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 12-81 of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
2 is amended by adding subdivision (83) as follows (*Effective October 1,*
3 *2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1,*
4 *2024*):

5 (NEW) (83) (A) (i) A dwelling, including a condominium, as defined
6 in section 47-68a, and a unit in a common interest community, as
7 defined in section 47-202, that is (I) owned by any resident of this state
8 who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air
9 Force or Space Force of the United States and has a service-connected
10 permanent and total disability rating as determined by the United States
11 Department of Veterans Affairs, and (II) occupied by such resident as
12 the resident's primary residence, or (ii) lacking such residence, one
13 motor vehicle owned by such resident and garaged in this state.

14 (B) No individual entitled to the exemption under this subdivision
15 and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (22), (23), (25) and (26) of
16 this section shall receive more than one exemption.

17 (C) (i) No individual shall receive any exemption to which such
18 individual is entitled under this subdivision until such individual has
19 complied with section 12-95, as amended by this act, and has submitted
20 proof of such individual's disability rating, as determined by the United
21 States Department of Veterans Affairs, to the assessor of the town in
22 which the exemption is sought. If there is no change to an individual's
23 disability rating, such proof shall not be required for any assessment
24 year following that for which the exemption under this subdivision is
25 granted initially. If the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
26 modifies a veteran's disability rating to other than service-connected
27 permanent and total disability, such modification shall be deemed a
28 waiver of the right to the exemption under this subdivision. Any such
29 veteran whose disability rating was modified to other than service-
30 connected permanent and total disability may seek the exemption under
31 subdivision (20) of this section.

32 (ii) Any individual who has been unable to submit evidence of
33 disability rating in the manner required by this subdivision, or who has
34 failed to submit such evidence as provided in section 12-95, as amended
35 by this act, may, when such individual obtains such evidence, make
36 application to the tax collector not later than one year after such
37 individual obtains such proof or not later than one year after the
38 expiration of the time limited in section 12-95, as amended by this act,
39 as the case may be, for abatement in case the tax has not been paid, or
40 for refund in case the whole tax or part of the tax has been paid. Such
41 abatement or refund may be granted retroactively to include the
42 assessment day next succeeding the date as of which such individual
43 was entitled to such disability rating as determined by the United States
44 Department of Veterans Affairs, but in no case shall any abatement or
45 refund be made for a period greater than three years.

46 (iii) The tax collector shall, after examination of such application, refer

47 the same, with the tax collector's recommendations thereon, to the board
48 of selectmen of a town or to the corresponding authority of any other
49 municipality, and shall certify to the amount of abatement or refund to
50 which the applicant is entitled. Upon receipt of such application and
51 certification, the selectmen or other duly constituted authority shall, in
52 case the tax has not been paid, issue a certificate of abatement or, in case
53 the whole tax or part of the tax has been paid, draw an order upon the
54 treasurer in favor of such applicant for such amount, without interest.
55 Any action so taken by such selectmen or other authority shall be a
56 matter of record and the tax collector shall be notified in writing of such
57 action.

58 Sec. 2. Subdivision (20) of section 12-81 of the 2024 supplement to the
59 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
60 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years*
61 *commencing on or after October 1, 2024*):

62 (20) (A) Subject to the provisions hereinafter stated, property not
63 exceeding three thousand five hundred dollars in amount shall be
64 exempt from taxation, which property belongs to, or is held in trust for,
65 any resident of this state who has served, or is serving, in the Army,
66 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the
67 United States and [(1)] (i) has a disability rating as determined by the
68 United States Department of Veterans Affairs amounting to ten per cent
69 or more of total disability, other than a service-connected permanent
70 and total disability rating, provided such exemption shall be two
71 thousand dollars in any case in which such rating is between ten per
72 cent and twenty-five per cent; two thousand five hundred dollars in any
73 case in which such rating is more than twenty-five per cent but not more
74 than fifty per cent; three thousand dollars in any case in which such
75 rating is more than fifty per cent but not more than seventy-five per cent;
76 and three thousand five hundred dollars in any case in which such
77 [person] resident has attained sixty-five years of age or such rating is
78 more than seventy-five per cent; or [(2)] (ii) is receiving a pension,
79 annuity or compensation from the United States because of the loss in
80 service of a leg or arm or that which is considered by the rules of the

81 United States Pension Office or the Bureau of War Risk Insurance the
82 equivalent of such loss.

83 (B) If such veteran lacks such amount of property in [his or her] such
84 veteran's name, so much of the property belonging to, or held in trust
85 for, [his or her] such veteran's spouse, who is domiciled with [him or
86 her] such veteran, as is necessary to equal such amount shall also be so
87 exempt. When any veteran entitled to an exemption under the
88 provisions of this [section] subdivision has died, property belonging to,
89 or held in trust for, [his or her] such deceased veteran's surviving
90 spouse, while such spouse remains a widow or widower, or belonging
91 to or held in trust for [his or her] such deceased veteran's minor children
92 during their minority, or both, while they are residents of this state, shall
93 be exempt in the same aggregate amount as that to which the disabled
94 veteran was or would have been entitled at the time of [his or her] such
95 veteran's death.

96 (C) No individual entitled to the exemption under this subdivision
97 and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (22), (23), (25) and (26) of
98 this section shall receive more than one exemption.

99 (D) (i) No individual shall receive any exemption to which [he or she]
100 such individual is entitled under this subdivision until [he or she] such
101 individual has complied with section 12-95, as amended by this act, and
102 has submitted proof of [his or her] such individual's disability rating, as
103 determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to the
104 assessor of the town in which the exemption is sought. If there is no
105 change to an individual's disability rating, such proof shall not be
106 required for any assessment year following that for which the
107 exemption under this subdivision is granted initially. If the United
108 States Department of Veterans Affairs modifies a veteran's disability
109 rating, such modification shall be deemed a waiver of the right to [such]
110 the exemption under this subdivision until proof of disability rating is
111 submitted to the assessor and the right to such exemption is established
112 as required initially, except that if such disability rating is modified to a
113 service-connected permanent and total disability rating, such veteran

114 may seek the exemption under subdivision (83) of this section.

115 (ii) Any [person] individual who has been unable to submit evidence
116 of disability rating in the manner required by this subdivision, or who
117 has failed to submit such evidence as provided in section 12-95, as
118 amended by this act, may, when [he or she] such individual obtains such
119 evidence, make application to the tax collector [of taxes within] not later
120 than one year after [he or she] such individual obtains such proof or
121 [within] not later than one year after the expiration of the time limited
122 in section 12-95, as amended by this act, as the case may be, for
123 abatement in case the tax has not been paid, or for refund in case the
124 whole tax has been paid, of such part or the whole of such tax as
125 represents the service exemption. Such abatement or refund may be
126 granted retroactively to include the assessment day next succeeding the
127 date as of which such person was entitled to such disability rating as
128 determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, but in
129 no case shall any abatement or refund be made for a period greater than
130 three years.

131 (iii) The tax collector shall, after examination of such application, refer
132 the same, with [his] the tax collector's recommendations thereon, to the
133 board of selectmen of a town or to the corresponding authority of any
134 other municipality, and shall certify to the amount of abatement or
135 refund to which the applicant is entitled. Upon receipt of such
136 application and certification, the selectmen or other duly constituted
137 authority shall, in case the tax has not been paid, issue a certificate of
138 abatement or, in case the whole tax has been paid, draw an order upon
139 the treasurer in favor of such applicant for the amount, without interest,
140 [which] that represents the service exemption. Any action so taken by
141 such selectmen or other authority shall be a matter of record and the tax
142 collector shall be notified in writing of such action;

143 Sec. 3. Section 12-95 of the general statutes is repealed and the
144 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2024, and*
145 *applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024*):

146 No individual shall receive any exemption to which [he] such
 147 individual is entitled by any one of subdivisions (19), (20), (22), (23), (25),
 148 (26), [and] (28) and (83) of section 12-81, as amended by this act, or
 149 section 12-82 until [he] such individual has proved [his] such
 150 individual's right to such exemption in accordance with the provisions
 151 of sections 12-93 and 12-94, together with such further proof as is
 152 necessary under the provisions of any of said sections. Exemptions so
 153 proved by residents shall take effect on the next succeeding assessment
 154 day, provided individuals entitled to an exemption under the
 155 provisions of subdivision (20) or (83) of section 12-81, as amended by
 156 this act, may prove such right at any time before the expiration of the
 157 time limited by law for the board of assessment appeals of the town
 158 wherein the exemption is claimed to complete its duties and such
 159 exemption shall take effect on the assessment day next preceding the
 160 date of the proof thereof. For purposes of any tax payable in accordance
 161 with the provisions of section 12-71b, any such exemption referred to in
 162 this section shall take effect on the first day of January next following
 163 the date on which the right to such exemption has been proved.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024</i>	12-81(83)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024</i>	12-81(20)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2024, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2024</i>	12-95

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a property tax exemption for veterans who have a service-connected permanent and total disability rating as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]