A bill for an act

relating to taxation; removing a limitation on the duration of a tax exemption for homesteads of surviving spouses of disabled veterans; amending Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 273.13, subdivision 34.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 273.13, subdivision 34, is amended to read:

Subd. 34. **Homestead of disabled veteran.** (a) All or a portion of the market value of property owned by a veteran or by the veteran and the veteran's spouse qualifying for homestead classification under subdivision 22 or 23 is excluded in determining the property's taxable market value if it serves as the homestead of a military veteran, as defined in section 197.447, who has a service-connected disability of 70 percent or more. To qualify for exclusion under this subdivision, the veteran must have been honorably discharged from the United States armed forces, as indicated by United States Government Form DD214 or other official military discharge papers, and must be certified by the United States Veterans Administration as having a service-connected disability.

(b)(1) For a disability rating of 70 percent or more, $150,000 of market value is excluded, except as provided in clause (2); and

(2) for a total (100 percent) and permanent disability, $300,000 of market value is excluded.

(c) If a disabled veteran qualifying for a valuation exclusion under paragraph (b), clause (2), predeceases the veteran's spouse, and if upon the death of the veteran the spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead and permanently resides there, the exclusion shall carry over to the benefit of the veteran's spouse ~~for one additional~~

~~assessment year or~~ until such time as the spouse sells, transfers, or otherwise disposes of the property~~, whichever comes first~~.

(d) In the case of an agricultural homestead, only the portion of the property consisting of the house and garage and immediately surrounding one acre of land qualifies for the valuation exclusion under this subdivision.

(e) A property qualifying for a valuation exclusion under this subdivision is not eligible for the credit under section 273.1384, subdivision 1, or classification under subdivision 22, paragraph (b).

(f) To qualify for a valuation exclusion under this subdivision a property owner must apply to the assessor by July 1 of each assessment year, except that an annual reapplication is not required once a property has been accepted for a valuation exclusion under paragraph (b), clause (2), and the property continues to qualify until there is a change in ownership.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for taxes levied in 2010, payable in 2011, and thereafter, and applies to homesteads that initially qualified for the exclusion for taxes payable in 2009 and thereafter.