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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 3503

03/08/2018

Authored by Torkelson

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans Affairs Division

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to taxation; property; expanding disabled veterans' eligibility for homestead
1.3 value exclusion; modifying benefit eligibility for deceased veteran's spouse;
1.4 amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 273.13, subdivision 34.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 273.13, subdivision 34, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 34. **Homestead of disabled veteran or family caregiver.** (a) All or a portion of
1.8 the market value of property owned by a veteran and serving as the veteran's homestead
1.9 under this section is excluded in determining the property's taxable market value if the
1.10 veteran has a service-connected disability of 70 percent or more as certified by the United
1.11 States Department of Veterans Affairs. To qualify for exclusion under this subdivision, the
1.12 veteran must have been honorably discharged from the United States armed forces, as
1.13 indicated by United States Government Form DD214 or other official military discharge
1.14 papers.

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

1.17 (2) for a total ~~(100 percent) and permanent~~ 100 percent disability rating, including a
1.18 veteran who is deceased because of a service-related injury or disease, \$300,000 of market
1.19 value is excluded.

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

2.1 ~~for eight additional taxes payable years or~~ until such time as the spouse remarries, or sells,
2.2 transfers, or otherwise disposes of the property, ~~whichever comes first~~. Qualification under
2.3 this paragraph requires an annual application under paragraph (h).

2.4 (d) If the spouse of a member of any branch or unit of the United States armed forces
2.5 who dies due to a service-connected cause while serving honorably in active service, as
2.6 indicated on United States Government Form DD1300 or DD2064, holds the legal or
2.7 beneficial title to a homestead and permanently resides there, the spouse is entitled to the
2.8 benefit described in paragraph (b), clause (2), ~~for eight taxes payable years, or~~ until such
2.9 time as the spouse remarries or sells, transfers, or otherwise disposes of the property;
2.10 ~~whichever comes first~~.

2.11 (e) If a veteran meets the disability criteria of paragraph (a) but does not own property
2.12 classified as homestead in the state of Minnesota, then the homestead of the veteran's primary
2.13 family caregiver, if any, is eligible for the exclusion that the veteran would otherwise qualify
2.14 for under paragraph (b).

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

2.18 (g) A property qualifying for a valuation exclusion under this subdivision is not eligible
2.19 for the market value exclusion under subdivision 35, or classification under subdivision 22,
2.20 paragraph (b).

2.21 (h) To qualify for a valuation exclusion under this subdivision a property owner must
2.22 apply to the assessor by July 1 of each assessment year, except that an annual reapplication
2.23 is not required once a property has been accepted for a valuation exclusion under paragraph
2.24 (a) and qualifies for the benefit described in paragraph (b), clause (2), and the property
2.25 continues to qualify until there is a change in ownership. For an application received after
2.26 July 1 of any calendar year, the exclusion shall become effective for the following assessment
2.27 year.

2.28 (i) A first-time application by a qualifying spouse for the market value exclusion under
2.29 paragraph (d) must be made any time within two years of the death of the service member.

2.30 (j) For purposes of this subdivision:

2.31 (1) "active service" has the meaning given in section 190.05;

2.32 (2) "own" means that the person's name is present as an owner on the property deed;

(3) "primary family caregiver" means a person who is approved by the secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for assistance as the primary provider of personal care services for an eligible veteran under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, codified as United States Code, title 38, section 1720G; and

(4) "veteran" has the meaning given the term in section 197.447.

(k) If a veteran did not apply for or receive the exclusion under paragraph (b), clause (2), before dying, the veteran's spouse is entitled to the benefit under paragraph (b), clause (2), until the spouse remarries or sells, transfers, or otherwise disposes of the property if:

(1) the spouse files a first-time application within two years of the death of the service member or by June 1, 2019, whichever is later;

(2) upon the death of the veteran, the spouse holds the legal or beneficial title to the homestead and permanently resides there;

(3) the veteran met the honorable discharge requirements of paragraph (a);

(4) the spouse complies with the annual application requirement under paragraph (h); and

(5) the United States Department of Veterans Affairs certifies that:

(i) the veteran met the 100 percent disability rating under paragraph (b), clause (2); or

(ii) the spouse has been awarded dependency and indemnity compensation.

(l) The purpose of this provision of law providing a level of homestead property tax relief for gravely disabled veterans, their primary family caregivers, and their surviving spouses is to help ease the burdens of war for those among our state's citizens who bear those burdens most heavily.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.