

**SENATE, No. 1076**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes proportional property tax exemption for honorably discharged veterans having a service-connected disability and requires State to reimburse municipalities for cost of exemption.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



S1076 GREENSTEIN

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1 AN ACT providing a proportional property tax exemption to certain  
2 veterans having a service-connected disability, amending  
3 P.L.1948, c.259, and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 54 of the  
4 Revised Statutes.

5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

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9 1. Section 1 of P.L.1948, c.259 (C.54:4-3.30) is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 1. a. The dwelling house and the lot or curtilage whereon the  
12 same is erected, of any citizen and resident of this State, now or  
13 hereafter honorably discharged or released under honorable  
14 circumstances, from active service in any branch of the Armed  
15 Forces of the United States, who has been or shall be declared by  
16 the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs or its successor to  
17 have a service-connected disability **[**from paraplegia, sarcoidosis,  
18 osteochondritis resulting in permanent loss of the use of both legs,  
19 or permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body, or  
20 from hemiplegia and has permanent paralysis of one leg and one  
21 arm or either side of the body, resulting from injury to the spinal  
22 cord, skeletal structure, or brain or from disease of the spinal cord  
23 not resulting from any form of syphilis; or from total blindness; or  
24 from amputation of both arms or both legs, or both hands or both  
25 feet, or the combination of a hand and a foot; or from other service-  
26 connected disability declared by the United States Veterans  
27 Administration or its successor to be a total or 100% permanent  
28 disability, and not so evaluated solely because of hospitalization or  
29 surgery and recuperation, sustained through enemy action, or  
30 accident, or resulting from disease contracted while in such active  
31 service**]** of at least 25 percent, shall be exempt from taxation, on  
32 proper claim made therefor, in proportion to their percentage of  
33 service-connected disability, up to and including a total or 100  
34 percent disability, and such exemption shall be in addition to any  
35 other exemption of such person's real and personal property which  
36 now is or hereafter shall be prescribed or allowed by the  
37 Constitution or by law but no taxpayer shall be allowed more than  
38 one exemption under this act. In the case of a resident of this State  
39 with a service-connected disability that is less than total or 100  
40 percent disability but who is deemed by the United States  
41 Department of Veterans' Affairs or its successor to be unemployable  
42 as a result of service-connected disability, the exemption shall be  
43 100 percent. For any exemption granted pursuant to this subsection  
44 that is less than 100 percent, the exemption shall not exceed  
45 \$15,000.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1       b. (1) The surviving spouse of any such citizen and resident of  
2 this State, who at the time of death was entitled to the exemption  
3 provided under this act, shall be entitled, on proper claim made.  
4 therefor, to the same exemption as the deceased had, during the  
5 surviving spouse's widowhood or widowerhood, as the case may be,  
6 and while a resident of this State, for the time that the surviving  
7 spouse is the legal owner thereof and actually occupies the said  
8 dwelling house or any other dwelling house thereafter acquired.

9       (2) The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State  
10 who was honorably discharged and, after the citizen and resident's  
11 death, is declared to have suffered a service-connected disability as  
12 provided in subsection a. of this section, shall be entitled, on proper  
13 claim made therefor, to the same exemption the deceased would  
14 have become eligible for. The exemption shall continue during the  
15 surviving spouse's widowhood or widowerhood, as the case may be,  
16 and while a resident of this State, for the time that the surviving  
17 spouse is the legal owner thereof and actually occupies the dwelling  
18 house or any other dwelling house thereafter acquired.

19       c. The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this  
20 State, who died in active service in any branch of the Armed Forces  
21 of the United States, shall be entitled, on proper claim made  
22 therefor, to an exemption from taxation on the dwelling house and  
23 lot or curtilage whereon the same is erected, during the surviving  
24 spouse's widowhood or widowerhood, as the case may be, and  
25 while a resident of this State, for the time that the surviving spouse  
26 is the legal owner thereof and actually occupies the said dwelling or  
27 any other dwelling house thereafter acquired.

28       d. The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State  
29 who died prior to January 10, 1972, that being the effective date of  
30 P.L.1971, c.398, and whose circumstances were such that, had said  
31 law become effective during the deceased's lifetime, the deceased  
32 would have become eligible for the exemption granted under this  
33 section as amended by said law, shall be entitled, on proper claim  
34 made therefor, to the same exemption as the deceased would have  
35 become eligible for upon the dwelling house and lot or curtilage  
36 occupied by the deceased at the time of death, during the surviving  
37 spouse's widowhood or widowerhood, as the case may be, and  
38 while a resident of this State, for the time that the surviving spouse  
39 is the legal owner thereof and actually occupies the said dwelling  
40 house on the premises to be exempted.

41       e. **【Nothing in this act shall be intended to include paraplegia**  
42 **or hemiplegia resulting from locomotor ataxia or other forms of**  
43 **syphilis of the central nervous system, or from chronic alcoholism,**  
44 **or to include other forms of disease resulting from the veteran's own**  
45 **misconduct which may produce signs and symptoms similar to**  
46 **those resulting from paraplegia, osteochondritis, or hemiplegia】**

1 (Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c. ) pending before the  
2 Legislature as this bill).  
3 (cf: P.L.2019, c.413, s.1)  
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5 2. (New section) The State shall annually reimburse each  
6 taxing district in an amount equal to 102 percent of the amount of  
7 any property tax exemption granted by that taxing district pursuant  
8 to section 1 of P.L.1948, c.259 (C.54:4-3.30) in that taxing district.  
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10 3. (New section) a. On or before June 1 of each year, each tax  
11 assessor shall certify to the county tax board the number of property  
12 tax exemptions provided pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1948, c.259  
13 (C.54:4-3.30), and the total amount of all such exemptions.

14 b. On or before June 15 of each year, each county board of  
15 taxation shall, on a form prescribed by the Director of the Division  
16 of Taxation in the Department of the Treasury, certify to the  
17 director the following:

18 (1) the number of property tax exemptions allowed pursuant to  
19 section 1 of P.L.1948, c.259 (C.54:4-3.30) for the current year;

20 (2) the total dollar amount of property tax exemptions allowed  
21 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1948, c.259 (C.54:4-3.30) for the  
22 current year;

23 (3) the number and dollar amount of property tax exemptions  
24 allowed or disallowed, as certified by the tax collector, pursuant to  
25 section 1 of P.L.1948, c.259 (C.54:4-3.30), from the time of  
26 certification made the previous year and prior to certification for the  
27 current year; and

28 (4) the totals for (1), (2), and (3) above by district and for the  
29 county as a whole.  
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31 4. (New section) For each year, each county board of taxation  
32 shall include in the table of aggregates prepared pursuant to  
33 R.S.54:4-52 the full estimated amount of the property tax  
34 exemptions as provided in section 1 of P.L.1948, c.259  
35 (C.54:4-3.30), but that amount shall not be included in the total on  
36 which the tax rate is to be computed.  
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38 5. (New section) The Director of the Division of Taxation in  
39 the Department of the Treasury may inspect all records in the office  
40 of the collector and the assessor with respect to claims and  
41 allowances for the property tax exemption provided in section 1 of  
42 P.L.1948, c.259 (C.54:4-3.30).  
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44 6. This act shall take effect January 1 next following  
45 enactment.

STATEMENT

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The bill grants a property tax exemption to honorably discharged veterans having a service-connected disability in proportion to their disability percentage rating. The exemption is granted to those with a disability percentage rating of at least 25 percent, and the exemption is capped at \$15,000. Those with a 100 percent disability percentage rating would still be allowed a 100 percent property tax exemption without a cap, as is the case under current law.

In addition, the bill grants those honorably discharged veterans having less than a 100 percent service-connected disability, but who are unemployable, a 100 percent property tax exemption, which matches the current 100 percent property tax exemption for honorably discharged veterans having a 100 percent disability percentage rating.

As under current law, the bill allows the property tax exemption to extend to the surviving spouse of a veteran.

The bill eliminates all references to medical conditions so that any service-connected disability, as determined by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, will make a veteran eligible for the property tax exemption.

Finally, the bill requires the State to annually reimburse taxing districts, including for administrative costs, for the property tax exemptions granted to disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. The bill includes reporting provisions so proper reimbursement can be made.