

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 40**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

**Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO
District 25 (Morris and Passaic)**

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Corrado, O'Scanlon and Space

SYNOPSIS

Proposes constitutional amendment to increase to \$500 veterans' property tax deduction.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2024)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION proposing to amend Article VIII,
2 Section I, paragraph 3 of the Constitution of the State of New
3 Jersey
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the
6 General Assembly concurring):
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8 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of the
9 State of New Jersey is agreed to:
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11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

12 Amend Article VIII, Section I, paragraph 3 to read as follows:

13 a. Any citizen and resident of this State now or hereafter
14 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
15 from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United
16 States shall be entitled, annually to a deduction from the amount of
17 any tax bill for taxes on real and personal property, or both,
18 including taxes attributable to a residential unit held by a
19 stockholder in a cooperative or mutual housing corporation in the
20 sum of \$250 in each tax year through 2022, or if the amount of any
21 such tax bill shall be less than \$250, to a cancellation thereof.
22 Beginning in 2023, the amount of the deduction shall be \$300 in
23 2023, \$350 in 2024, \$400 in 2025, \$450 in 2026, and \$500 in 2027
24 and in each year thereafter. If the amount of any such tax bill in
25 any year shall be less than the amount of the deduction for that year,
26 the tax bill shall be cancelled. The deduction or cancellation shall
27 not be altered or repealed. Any person hereinabove described who
28 has been or shall be declared by the United States Department of
29 Veterans Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected
30 disability, shall be entitled to such further deduction from taxation
31 as from time to time may be provided by law. The surviving spouse
32 of any citizen and resident of this State who has met or shall meet
33 his or her death on active duty in any such service shall be entitled,
34 during her widowhood or his widowerhood, as the case may be, and
35 while a resident of this State, to the deduction or cancellation in this
36 subsection provided for honorably discharged veterans and to such
37 further deduction as from time to time may be provided by law.
38 The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State who
39 has had or shall hereafter have active service in any branch of the
40 Armed Forces of the United States and who died or shall die while
41 on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United
42 States, or who has been or may hereafter be honorably discharged
43 or released under honorable circumstances from active service in
44 any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be
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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 entitled, during her widowhood or his widowerhood, as the case
2 may be, and while a resident of this State, to the deduction or
3 cancellation in this subsection provided for honorably discharged
4 veterans and to such further deductions as from time to time may be
5 provided by law.

6 b. A continuing care retirement community shall receive a
7 veterans' property tax deduction on behalf of eligible veterans. The
8 amount of the property tax deduction shall be the dollar amount of
9 the deduction multiplied by the number of eligible veterans
10 receiving the property tax deduction immediately prior to moving
11 into the continuing care retirement community. A person otherwise
12 eligible for the veterans' deduction who is a resident of a continuing
13 care retirement community shall receive the amount of the
14 deduction to the extent of the share of the taxes assessed against the
15 real property of the continuing care retirement community that is
16 attributable to the unit that the resident occupies. The continuing
17 care retirement community shall provide that amount as a payment
18 or credit to the resident. That payment or credit shall be made to
19 the resident no later than 30 days after the continuing care
20 retirement community receives the property tax bill on which the
21 credit appears. A veterans' property tax deduction shall not be paid
22 on behalf of any eligible veteran who resides in a continuing care
23 retirement community that is property tax-exempt. A resident
24 receiving a payment or credit pursuant to this subsection shall not
25 receive a veterans' property tax deduction on any other residence
26 owned in whole or in part by the resident, or any residence in which
27 the resident's spouse is living.

28 The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State
29 who has met or shall meet his or her death on active duty in any
30 such service shall be entitled, during her widowhood or his
31 widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a resident of this State,
32 to the deduction in this subsection provided for honorably
33 discharged veterans. The surviving spouse of any citizen and
34 resident of this State who has had or shall hereafter have active
35 service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and
36 who died or shall die while on active duty in any branch of the
37 Armed Forces of the United States, or who has been or may
38 hereafter be honorably discharged or released under honorable
39 circumstances from active service in any branch of the Armed
40 Forces of the United States shall be entitled, during her widowhood
41 or his widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a resident of this
42 State, to the deduction in this subsection provided for honorably
43 discharged veterans.

44 (cf: Article VIII, Section I, paragraph 3 amended effective
45 December 3, 2020)

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47 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally
48 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it

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1 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election
2 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and
3 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each
4 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
5 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three
6 months prior to the general election.

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8 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be
9 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and
10 form:

11 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the
12 general election, the following:

13 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,
14 a legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

15 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus
16 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are
17 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the
18 square opposite the word "No."

19 b. In every municipality the following question:
20

YES	<p style="text-align: center;">CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION FOR VETERANS</p> <p>Shall the amendment to Article VIII, Section I, paragraph 3 of the State Constitution, agreed to by the Legislature, increasing from \$250 to \$500 over five years the annual deduction for veterans from real property taxes, be approved?</p>
NO	<p style="text-align: center;">INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>This proposed constitutional amendment would increase the veterans' property tax deduction from the current \$250 to: \$300 for calendar year 2023, \$350 for calendar year 2024, \$400 for calendar year 2025, \$450 for calendar year 2026 and \$500 for calendar year 2027 and for each year after that. The veterans' property tax deduction provided for in the State Constitution was last increased in 1999.</p>

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STATEMENT

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25 If approved by the voters of the State, this proposed
26 constitutional amendment would increase the veterans' property tax
27 deduction from the current \$250 to: \$300 in calendar year 2023,

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1 \$350 in calendar year 2024, \$400 in calendar year 2025, \$450 in
2 calendar year 2026 and \$500 in calendar year 2027 and for each
3 year thereafter. The veterans' property tax deduction provided for
4 in the State Constitution was last increased in 1999, when the
5 amount of the annual deduction was raised from \$50 to \$250 over
6 four years.