

**ATTENTION ALL HONORABLE DISABLED VETERANS**

# FROM THE DESK OF BRUCE SIMPSON, CITY OF DETROIT OMBUDSMAN

*"Improving Your Quality of Life on a Daily Basis"*



Hello Veterans!

In my 2022-2023 Fiscal Budget Ombudsman Recommendations, there was advocacy for a **Disabled Veterans' Exemption** to address the burden on disabled veterans who had to file for this exemption every year. I discussed the recommendation with Alvin Horhn, the CFO/Assessor of the City of Detroit, and he agreed that we should pursue the General Property Tax Act, 206 of 1893, in Lansing regarding disabled veterans.

I would like to express my gratitude to State Senator Santana for sponsoring the bill and drafting the amended language. I also want to thank State Senator Mary Cavanaugh, Chair of Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection, for supporting the bill. Their tireless efforts will significantly benefit our disabled veterans throughout Michigan.

**Senate Bills 176, 330, and 364, the General Property Tax Act, were signed into law on October 19, 2023, by Governor Whitmer.**

**Here's what it means:**

- ✓ These bills provide an exemption for taxes levied on or after January 1, 2025, which remains in effect until rescinded by the recipient or denied by the local assessor.
- ✓ The application process was simplified, and the exemption extends to property owned and used as a homestead by a surviving spouse after the disabled veteran's death.
- ✓ **The bill allows applications to be submitted from January 1 to December 31 each year.**
- ✓ Exemptions are granted for property taxes during the current tax year and are prorated if the property was not used as a homestead for the entire year.
- ✓ The bill exempts a disabled veteran or their surviving spouse. It applies to all property taxes paid by the qualifying individual during the current tax year and all taxes that would have been owed if the property were not exempt. If the individual **did not own and use the property as a homestead for the entire tax year, the exemption will be prorated using one of the following methods:**
- ✓ Using the closing or other purchase documents to calculate the tax amount to be exempted. **No refund would be provided to the seller by the exempt individual.**
- ✓ By calculating the amount of taxes to be exempted by dividing the total property taxes levied in a year by 365 and multiplying that number by the number of days the exempt individual would occupy and own the property as a homestead.
- ✓ Using a proration that takes the effective date of any removal of the exemption into account by dividing the total property taxes levied in a year by 365 and multiplying that number by the number of days the individual used and owned the property as a homestead while qualified for the exemption.

**The definition of "own or owned" is also clarified for disabled veterans and surviving spouses. This change aims to reduce the annual inconvenience faced by disabled veterans in Detroit and Michigan.**

- ✓ For a disabled veteran, that legal title to the property is held solely by that individual or jointly by that individual and that individual's spouse.
- ✓ For a surviving spouse, that legal title to the property is held solely by that individual.



For a more comprehensive understanding of each bill, scan the QR Code.

**Coleman A. Young Municipal Center 2 Woodward, Rm 114 | Detroit, MI 48226  
Monday through Friday (open to the public) 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

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