

## Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans

Real property used and owned as a homestead by a disabled veteran who was discharged from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions may be exempt from the collection of taxes under Senate Bill No. 352, an Act to amend 1893 PA 206 if they are a resident of this state and meet 1 of the following criteria:

1. Has been determined by the US Department of veteran's affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.
2. Has been rated by the United States department of veteran's affairs as individually unemployable.
3. A veteran who has received a grant of money from the Veteran's Administration for the purpose of making special adaptation(s) to their home. \*

### **For all criteria above, the Assessor's office will need:**

1. Your current certificate from the United States Department of veteran's affairs showing you qualify for one of the criteria listed above.
2. A copy of your DD214.
3. A copy of your recorded deed to your property.
4. A signed State Tax Commission Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption form.
5. A copy of Military ID, State of Michigan driver's license, or any other photo ID that proves residency.
6. The settlement page from closing if you purchased your home within the current year applying.

\*If the veteran qualifies due to special adaptation to their home, a description of the property which is "specially adapted" for your needs is required.

**All these documents must be filed each and every year between January 1 and before the closing of the December Board of Review.**

# State Tax Commission Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption

Issued under authority of Public Act 161 of 2013, MCL 211.7b. Filing is mandatory.

**Instructions:** This form is to be used to apply for an exemption of property taxes under MCL 211.7b, for real property used and owned as a homestead by a disabled veteran who was discharged from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions or his or her unremarried surviving spouse. The property owner, or his or her legal designee, must annually file the Affidavit with the supervisor or assessing officer any time after December 31 and before, or until the conclusion of, the December Board of Review.

<b>OWNER INFORMATION</b> (Enter information for the disabled veteran or unremarried surviving spouse)		
Owner's Name		Owner's Telephone Number
Owner's Mailing Address		
City	State	ZIP Code
<b>LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION</b> (Complete if applicable)		
Legal Designee Name		Daytime Telephone Number
Mailing Address		
City	State	ZIP Code
<b>HOMESTEAD PROPERTY INFORMATION</b> (Enter information for the property in which the exemption is being claimed)		
City, Township or Village (Check the appropriate box and provide the name) <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township <input type="checkbox"/> Village		
County	Name of the Local School District	
Parcel Identification Number	Date the Property was Acquired (MM/DD/YYYY)	
Homestead Property Address		
City	State	ZIP Code
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> (Check all boxes that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a disabled veteran, or the legal designee of the disabled veteran, who was discharged under honorable conditions from the armed forces of the United States of America with a service connected disability.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am the unremarried surviving spouse, or the legal designee of the unremarried surviving spouse, of a disabled veteran who was discharged under honorable conditions from the armed forces of the United States of America with a service connected disability.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a Michigan resident.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I own the property in which the exemption is being claimed and it is used as my homestead. Homestead is generally defined as any dwelling with its land and buildings where a family makes its home.		
<b>AFFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY</b> (Check the appropriate box and provide a copy of the required documentation)		
<input type="checkbox"/> The disabled veteran has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate (must attach a copy of the letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).		
<input type="checkbox"/> The disabled veteran is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing (must attach a copy of the certificate from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).		
<input type="checkbox"/> The veteran has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as individually unemployable (must attach a copy of the letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).		
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>		
<i>I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided in this Affidavit is true and I am eligible to receive the disabled veteran's exemption from property taxes pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7b.</i>		
Printed Name of Owner or Legal Designee		Title of Signatory
Signature of Owner or Legal Designee		Date

DESIGNEE MUST ATTACH LETTER OF AUTHORITY

## **Eligibility Requirements:**

In order to be eligible for the exemption, the disabled veteran must have been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States. They must be a Michigan resident. Additionally, they must meet one of the following criteria:

- (a) Has been determined by the United States department of veterans' affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.
- (b) Has a certificate from the United States veterans' administration, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.
- (c) Has been rated by the United States department of veterans' affairs as individually unemployable.

The unremarried surviving spouse of the disabled veteran is eligible for the exemption based upon the eligibility of their spouse; therefore the spouse must also be a Michigan resident. The exemption will continue only as long as the surviving spouse remains unremarried.

### **How is a determination made that the disabled veteran is permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate?**

The Veterans' Administration defines a service connected disability as a disability related to an injury or disease that developed during or was aggravated while on active duty or active duty for training.[1] The Veterans Administration Schedule for Rating Disabilities is used to assess the medical conditions and illnesses incurred or aggravated during the veteran's military service and a percentage rating from 0% to 100% is assigned based on the severity of the disability.

Individuals filing the affidavit for the exemption under criteria a) must provide a copy of the letter from the Veterans' Administration indicating they have a 100% service connected disability and are entitled to receive benefits.

**Note:** The Act does not require the disabled veteran to have already received the benefit, it only requires that they have been determined to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.

### **What is assistance for specially adapted housing?**

The Veterans' Administration provides veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities financial assistance to purchase or construct an adapted home or modify an existing home to accommodate a disability. There are two grant programs: specially adapted housing grant (SAH) and the special housing adaptation grant (SHA).[2]

[1] Summary of VA Benefits for Disabled Veterans

[2] U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Housing Grants for Disabled Veterans

The State Tax Commission has determined that receipt of either grant would qualify an individual for the exemption under criteria b).

Individuals filing the affidavit for the exemption under criteria b) must provide a copy of the certificate from the Veterans' Administration indicating they are receiving or have received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.

**What does individually unemployable mean?**

Individual unemployability is part of the Veterans' Administration disability compensation program. Under this program, veterans may receive compensation at the 100% rate even though their service connected disability is not rated at 100%.[3]

In order to be eligible a veteran must prove they are unable to maintain substantially gainful employment as a result of their service connected disability. In addition they must have one service connected disability rated at 60% or more or two or more service connected disabilities with at least one rated at 40% or more with a combined rating of 70% or more.[4]

Individuals filing the affidavit for the exemption under criteria c) must provide a copy of the letter from the Veterans' Administration indicating they are individually unemployable.

**Is there an asset test and/or means test to determine eligibility?**

No, there is no asset test and/or means test to determine eligibility. In order to be eligible the disabled veteran must meet the requirements of Public Act 161 of 2013 regardless of their income or the value of their home.

[3] Veteran's Affairs Individual Unemployability Fact Sheet

[4] Veteran's Affairs Individual Unemployability Fact Sheet



**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**

477 MICHIGAN AVE  
DETROIT MI 48226



**SAMPLE TYPICAL SUMMARY OF BENEFITS LETTER**

Veteran's Name:

This letter is a summary of benefits you currently receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We are providing this letter to disabled Veterans to use in applying for benefits such as housing entitlements, free or reduced state park annual memberships, state or local property or vehicle tax relief, civil service preference, or any other program or entitlement in which verification of VA benefits is required. Please safeguard this important document. This letter replaces VA Form 20-5455, and is considered an official record of your VA entitlement.

**--America is Grateful to You for Your Service--**

Our records contain the following information:

**Personal Claim Information:**

Your VA claim number is:

You are the Veteran

**Military Information:**

Your character(s) of discharge and service date(s) include:

Marine Corps, Honorable,

(You may have additional periods of service not listed above)

**VA Benefits Information:**

Service-connected disability: Yes

Your combined service-connected evaluation is: 100 PERCENT

The effective date of the last change to your current award was: 01-DEC-2012

Your current monthly award amount is:

Are you considered to be totally and permanently disabled due to your service-connected disabilities: Yes

You should contact your state or local office of Veterans' affairs for information on any tax, license, or fee-related benefits for which you may be eligible. State offices of Veterans' affairs are available at <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>.

**Need Additional Information or Verification?**

If you have any questions about this letter or need additional verification of VA benefits, please call us at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is 1-800-829-4833. Send electronic inquiries through the Internet at <https://iris.va.gov>.

Sincerely yours,

VETERANS SERVICE CENTER MANAGER