



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1600

S.P. 631

In Senate, April 11, 2023

An Act to Improve Property Tax Relief for Certain Disabled Veterans

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, MOORE of Washington, POULIOT of Kennebec, Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CRAY of Palmyra, GUERRETTE of Caribou, THERIAULT of Fort Kent.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, ¶D-1**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 682, §2, is
3 further amended to read:

4 D-1. The estates up to the just value of ~~\$50,000~~ identified in this paragraph, having a
5 taxable situs in the place of residence, ~~for specially adapted housing units~~, of veterans
6 who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during any federally recognized
7 war period, including the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, the
8 periods from August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 and December 20, 1989 to January 31,
9 1990, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New
10 Dawn, or during the period from February 1, 1955 to February 27, 1961, or who were
11 awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and who are ~~paraplegic veterans~~
12 within the meaning of 38 United States Code, Chapter 21, Section 2101, and who
13 received a grant from the United States Government for any such housing rated as
14 disabled by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as the result of a service-
15 related disability, or of the unmarried widows or widowers of those veterans. A
16 veteran of the Vietnam War must have served on active duty after February 27, 1961
17 and before May 8, 1975. "Persian Gulf War" means service on active duty on or after
18 August 2, 1990 and before or on the date that the United States Government recognizes
19 as the end of that war period. The exemption provided in this paragraph applies to the
20 property of the veteran including property held in joint tenancy with a spouse or held
21 in a revocable living trust for the benefit of that veteran.

22 The amount of the exemption under this paragraph is equal to the just value of a
23 veteran's estate multiplied by the percentage of the veteran's disability as rated by the
24 United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

25 The State shall reimburse each municipality for the amount of the property tax
26 exempted under this paragraph.

27 **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, ¶H**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 627, §22, is further
28 amended to read:

29 H. A Except as provided in paragraph D-1, a municipality granting exemptions under
30 this subsection is entitled to reimbursement from the State of 90% of that portion of
31 the property tax revenue lost as a result of the exemptions that exceeds 3% of the total
32 municipal property tax levy, upon submission of proof in a form satisfactory to the
33 State Tax Assessor. Exemptions granted under this subsection that are reimbursable
34 pursuant to section 661 are not eligible for reimbursement under this paragraph.

35 **Sec. 3. Application.** This Act applies to property tax years beginning on or after
36 April 1, 2024.

37 **SUMMARY**

38 This bill changes the property tax exemption for disabled veterans by extending it to
39 all disabled veterans and setting the exemption for each disabled veteran at the amount
40 calculated by multiplying the value of the property by the veteran's percentage of disability
41 as rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.