

A Guide to South Dakota's Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption Program (SDCL 10-4-40)

Summer 2008

The State of South Dakota recognizes and honors our state's veterans for the service they have given to and sacrifices they have made for their country. Some of our South Dakota veterans returned home with disabilities sustained through the course of that military service, and because of those conditions, may have difficulty meeting their property tax obligations.

With that in mind, the Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption program was developed to help ease the tax burden for such individuals. This brochure explains how the program works, what eligibility requirements must be met, how to apply, and lists the statute that governs the program. To find out more, please call us toll-free at 1-800-829-9188.

*Paul Kinsman, Secretary
SD Department of Revenue & Regulation*

WHAT THE PROGRAM DOES

For those eligible disabled veterans, the program exempts \$100,000 of the full and true value of the dwelling, or portion thereof, from property taxes.

“Dwelling” is defined as the house, manufactured home, or mobile home, and the lot upon which the structure is situated, or one acre, whichever is less. This also includes the garage, whether that structure is attached or unattached.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

To be eligible for the exemption, the following criteria must be met:

- The property must be owned and occupied by a disabled veteran.
- The property must be classified as owner occupied.
- The veteran must be rated as permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

For the initial application, the applicant must provide proof of their eligibility. Such proof can be obtained by calling the Sioux Falls VA Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000 and requesting that they send you a statement verifying that you are permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability(ies). You must take a copy of that statement with you when you apply for the exemption as proof that you meet the eligibility requirements.

HOW TO APPLY

Application must be made on or before November 1 of the first year the exemption is requested. Your application is for the following assessment year, taxes payable the next year. **For example**, an application by November 1, 2008 is for the 2009 assessment year, and the property taxes payable in 2010.

Application is made to the county Director of Equalization in the county where the property is located. Remember to supply proof of eligibility (see previous section) when making application for this exemption.

HAVE QUESTIONS ON THE PROGRAM?

Contact your local Veterans Service Officer, your county Director of Equalization, or the South Department of Revenue & Regulation, Division of Property and Special Taxes in Pierre.

Statutory Authority for the Program

SDCL 10-4-40. Partial exemption of dwellings owned by certain disabled veterans.

One hundred thousand dollars of the full and true value of the total amount of a dwelling or portion thereof that is owned and occupied for the full calendar year in which a tax is levied by a veteran who is rated as permanently and totally disabled from a service-connected disability is exempt from property taxation. For the purposes of this section, the term, dwelling, means any house, manufactured home, or mobile home, and includes the platted lot upon which the structure is situated or one acre, whichever is less, and the garage, whether attached or unattached. The veteran shall apply for this partial exemption on a form prescribed by the secretary of revenue and regulation.

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