



## **Veterans With Disabilities Property Tax Exemption Requirements - Fact Sheet**

SB23-036

Senators Pelton & Cutter / Representatives Armagost & Ortiz

**A technical fix bill to remove the Division of Veterans Affairs from being required by law to perform verification of veteran property tax verification before sending to county tax assessors.**

### **Background**

- When the enacting statutes of Referendum E were written, the primary method available to determine a rating was the veteran's VA Rating Decision documents. The Division of Veterans Affairs became the recipient of the applications and supporting documentation because subject matter knowledge, in the form of an accredited VSO, was needed in order to interpret a VA Rating Decision.
- VA now makes available a standard form letter called a Summary of Benefits. This letter uses plain language and a question-and-answer format to document key details of a Veteran's rating. It documents the rating percentage and whether the veteran is permanently and totally disabled as a result of their service-connected disabilities. It does not disclose any medical conditions. This letter can be understood by any reader and does not require knowledge of VA ratings.

### **History**

- Referendum E passed in 2006 and the enabling legislation passed in 2007. The first year for applications was 2008. In 2014, legislation added as qualifying owners surviving spouses of qualifying Veterans who were in receipt of the exemption during their lifetime. The first year for those applications was 2015. The addition of Gold Star spouses as qualifying owners was via Amendment E in 2022, with the first year for applications being 2023.

### **Bottom Line**

- With the Summary of Benefits letter available, it is no longer necessary for the Division of Veterans Affairs to interpret applicant eligibility. Eliminating the need for applications to be submitted to two destinations will expedite the processing and decrease the potential for error.
- According to the Division of Veterans Affairs, this legislation would eliminate approximately **1,111 hours** of unnecessary work. Thus, freeing up Division of Veterans Affairs employees to perform other work assisting Veterans in the State of Colorado.

\*Even if the Summary of Benefits letter is the requested documentation, some applicants may include a different VA document as evidence of their rating. The Division of Veterans Affairs will remain available to assist county government representatives in interpreting such documents. The Division's Veteran Service Officers will also stand by to support any Veterans who are unable to fill out the Summary of Benefits.