

RESOLUTION 2016-73

Support A Graduated Revision To The Wisconsin Veterans And Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit provides veterans and unremarried surviving spouses a refundable tax credit for their primary, in-state residence; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs verifies the veteran's eligibility for the program and the credit is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue through state income tax return; and

WHEREAS, the definition of an eligible veteran and an eligible unremarried surviving spouse are:

- Veterans who had been a Wisconsin resident for a consecutive 5-year period after entering active duty or was a Wisconsin resident when entering active duty; and
- The veteran must have either a service-connected disability rating of 100 percent (%) under 38 USC 1114 or 1134 or a 100% disability rating based on individual unemployability; and
- The unremarried surviving spouse of an eligible veteran or an unremarried surviving spouse, who following the veteran's death, began to receive and continues to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and
- In addition to the above requirements, the veteran had to have been a resident of Wisconsin at the time of death for an unremarried surviving spouse to qualify for the Property Tax Credit; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has recently implemented the Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption which provides a reduction in the tax on a qualifying property owned by a veteran with a VA service-connected disability rating; and

WHEREAS, the exemption is graduated in the following manner:

- A \$2,500 exemption is available to a veteran with a VA service-connected disability rating of at least 30% but less than 50%; and
- A \$5,000 exemption is available to a veteran with a VA service-connected disability rating of at least 50% but less than 70%; and
- Veterans with a VA service-connected disability rating of at least 70% are exempt from paying property taxes on their primary residence; and