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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1039 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, BARTOLOTTA, SCARNATI, COSTA, DINNIMAN,  
FONTANA, GREENLEAF, HAYWOOD, HUTCHINSON, RAFFERTY, SCAVELLO,  
VOGEL AND YUDICHAK, OCTOBER 20, 2015

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REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
OCTOBER 20, 2015

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth  
2 of Pennsylvania, further providing for exemptions and special  
3 provisions.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby resolves as follows:

6 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of  
7 Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with Article XI:

8 That section 2(c) of Article VIII be amended to read:

9 § 2. Exemptions and special provisions.

10 \* \* \*

11 (c) Citizens and residents of this Commonwealth, who served  
12 in any war or armed conflict in which the United States was  
13 engaged and were honorably discharged or released under  
14 honorable circumstances from active service, shall be exempt  
15 from the payment of [all] a portion of real property taxes upon  
16 the residence occupied by the said citizens and residents of  
17 this Commonwealth imposed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or

1 any of its political subdivisions if, as a result of military  
2 service, they are blind, paraplegic or double or quadruple  
3 amputees or have a service-connected disability declared by the  
4 United States [Veterans Administration] Department of Veterans  
5 Affairs or its successor to be a [total or 100%] permanent  
6 disability of 50% or greater, and if the State Veterans'  
7 Commission determines that such persons are in need of the tax  
8 exemptions granted herein. The percentage of exemption from real  
9 property taxes shall be in direct proportion to the percentage  
10 of disability. This exemption shall be extended to the unmarried  
11 surviving spouse upon the death of an eligible veteran provided  
12 that the State Veterans' Commission determines that such person  
13 is in need of the exemption.

14 Section 2. (a) Upon the first passage by the General  
15 Assembly of this proposed constitutional amendment, the  
16 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to  
17 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article  
18 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the  
19 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in  
20 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after  
21 passage of this proposed constitutional amendment.

22 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of this  
23 proposed constitutional amendment, the Secretary of the  
24 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the  
25 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the  
26 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required  
27 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such  
28 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of  
29 this proposed constitutional amendment. The Secretary of the  
30 Commonwealth shall submit this proposed constitutional amendment

1 to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth at the first  
2 primary, general or municipal election which meets the  
3 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of Article  
4 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which occurs at least  
5 three months after the proposed constitutional amendment is  
6 passed by the General Assembly.