

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1212
(Representatives Schreiber-Beck, McLeod, Mitskog, O'Brien, Pyle)
(Senators Hogan, Lee, K. Roers)

AN ACT to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 15-10-18.2, subdivision j of subsection 2 of section 39-04-18, subsection 1 of section 57-02-08.8, and subsection 1 of section 57-40.3-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to benefits for surviving spouses of disabled veterans; and to provide an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 15-10-18.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. "Dependent" for purposes of section 15-10-18.3 means:
 - a. A child, stepchild, spouse, widow, or widower of a resident veteran, as "veteran" is defined in section 37-01-40, who was killed in action or died from wounds or other service-connected causes, has a one hundred percent service-connected disability as determined by the department of veterans' affairs, has an extra-schedular rating to include individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability rating to one hundred percent as determined by the department of veterans' affairs, died from service-connected disabilities, was a prisoner of war, or was declared missing in action;
 - b. A child, stepchild, spouse, widow, or widower of a veteran, as defined in section 37-01-40, who was killed in action or died from wounds or other service-connected causes, has a one hundred percent service-connected disability as determined by the department of veterans' affairs, has an extra-schedular rating to include individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability rating to one hundred percent as determined by the department of veterans' affairs, died from service-connected disabilities, was a prisoner of war, or was declared missing in action, provided the spouse, widow, or widower, or the child's or stepchild's other parent, has been a resident of this state and was a resident of this state at the time of death or determination of total disability of the veteran; ~~or~~
 - c. A child, stepchild, spouse, widow, or widower of a veteran, as defined in section 37-01-40, who was killed in action or died from wounds or other service-connected causes, has a one hundred percent service-connected disability as determined by the department of veterans' affairs, has an extra-schedular rating to include individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability rating to one hundred percent as determined by the department of veterans' affairs, died from service-connected disabilities, was a prisoner of war, or was declared missing in action, provided the spouse, widow, or widower, or the child's or stepchild's other parent, establishes residency in this state and maintains that residency for a period of five years immediately preceding the spouse's, widow's, widower's, child's, or stepchild's enrollment at an institution under the control of the state board of higher education; or
 - d. A widow or widower of a veteran, as defined in section 37-01-40, who is receiving United States department of veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation and satisfies the residency requirement in subdivision a, b, or c. For purposes of this subdivision, sufficient proof of receipt of United States department of veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation includes correspondence directed to a qualifying veteran's widow or widower by the United States department of veterans

affairs which indicates the widow or widower is a survivor of the qualifying veteran and is in receipt of United States department of veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation.

For purposes of this subsection, if the determination of disability or service-connected death occurs subsequent to the qualifying veteran's death through application of a law that renders a surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran eligible for United States department of veterans' affairs disability and indemnity compensation, the determination for purposes of qualification as a dependent under this subsection is presumed to precede the veteran's death.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Subdivision j of subsection 2 of section 39-04-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- j. Motor vehicles not exceeding twenty-six thousand pounds [11793.40 kilograms] registered gross weight owned and operated by a disabled veteran under the provisions of Public Law 79-663 [38 U.S.C. 3901], a disabled veteran who has a one hundred percent service-connected disability as determined by the department of veterans' affairs, or a disabled veteran who has an extra-schedular rating to include individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability rating to one hundred percent as determined by the department of veterans' affairs is entitled to display either a distinctive license plate or a standard plate that does not identify the veteran as a veteran or disabled veteran which is issued by the department at no cost to the qualifying veteran or surviving spouse or any other distinctive or vanity plate purchased from the department by the qualifying veteran or surviving spouse. This exemption applies to no more than two such motor vehicles owned by a disabled veteran at any one time. A surviving spouse of a disabled veteran ~~who has not remarried and~~ who is receiving United States department of veterans' veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation ~~retains~~ is eligible for the exemption ~~of the deceased veteran who qualified under this subdivision for one vehicle. If the determination of disability or service-connected death occurs subsequent to the qualifying veteran's death through application of a law that renders a surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran eligible for United States department of veterans affairs disability and indemnity compensation, the determination for purposes of the exemption under this subdivision is presumed to precede the veteran's death. Sufficient proof of receipt of United States department of veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation includes correspondence directed to a surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran by the United States department of veterans affairs which indicates the surviving spouse is a survivor of the qualifying veteran and is in receipt of United States department of veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation.~~

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 57-02-08.8 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. A disabled veteran of the United States armed forces with an armed forces service-connected disability of fifty percent or greater or a disabled veteran who has an extra-schedular rating to include individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability rating to one hundred percent as determined by the department of veterans' affairs, who was discharged under honorable conditions or who has been retired from the armed forces of the United States, or the ~~unremarried~~ surviving spouse if the disabled veteran is deceased, is eligible for a credit applied against the first eight thousand one hundred dollars of taxable valuation of the homestead owned and occupied by the disabled veteran or ~~unremarried~~ surviving spouse equal to the percentage of the disabled veteran's disability compensation rating for service-connected disabilities as certified by the department of veterans' affairs for the purpose of applying for a property tax credit. ~~An unremarried~~ A surviving spouse who is receiving United States department of veterans' veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation receives a one hundred percent credit as described in this subsection. If the determination of disability or service-connected death occurs subsequent to the qualifying veteran's death through application of a law that renders a surviving spouse of a qualifying

veteran eligible for United States department of veterans affairs disability and indemnity compensation, the determination for purposes of the credit under this subsection is presumed to precede the veteran's death. Sufficient proof of receipt of United States department of veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation includes correspondence directed to a surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran by the United States department of veterans affairs which indicates the surviving spouse is a survivor of the qualifying veteran and is in receipt of United States department of veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 57-40.3-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1. Any motor vehicle acquired by, or leased and in the possession of, a resident disabled veteran under the provisions of Pub. L. 79-663 [38 U.S.C. 3901], a resident disabled veteran who has a one hundred percent service-connected disability as determined by the department of veterans' affairs, or a resident disabled veteran who has an extra-schedular rating to include individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability rating to one hundred percent as determined by the department of veterans' affairs who registers, or is eligible to register, the vehicle with a distinctive license plate issued by the department of transportation under subdivision j of subsection 2 of section 39-04-18. ~~An unremarried~~ A surviving spouse who is receiving United States department of veterans'veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation ~~retains~~ is eligible for the exemption of the deceased, qualifying veteran in this subsection. If the determination of disability or service-connected death occurs subsequent to the qualifying veteran's death through application of a law that renders a surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran eligible for United States department of veterans affairs disability and indemnity compensation, the determination for purposes of the exemption under this subsection is presumed to precede the veteran's death. Sufficient proof of receipt of United States department of veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation includes correspondence directed to a surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran by the United States department of veterans affairs which indicates the surviving spouse is a survivor of the qualifying veteran and is in receipt of United States department of veterans affairs dependency and indemnity compensation.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 3 of this Act is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022. Section 4 of this Act is effective for taxable events occurring after June 30, 2023.

Dennis Johnson
Speaker of the House

Tammy Jell
President of the Senate

Buell F. Reix
Chief Clerk of the House

Shirley Morgan
Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1212.

House Vote: Yeas 90 Nays 0 Absent 4

Senate Vote: Yeas 47 Nays 0 Absent 0

Buell F. Reix
Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at 3:00 PM. on April 7, 2023.

Approved at 1:45 PM. on April 11, 2023.

Douglas Burgum
Governor

Filed in this office this 12th day of April, 2023,

at 12:03 o'clock P. M.

Michael Howe
Secretary of State