



AMVETS

Department of Ohio

Proponent Written Testimony for the
Ohio House Ways and Means Committee

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H.B. No. 254 To amend sections 323.151, 323.152, 323.153, 4503.065, and 4503.066 of the Revised Code to expand and enhance the homestead property tax exemption for disabled veterans.

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chairman Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy, and the other honorable Ohio House Ways and Means Committee members. I am Don McCauley, a US Army Veteran and Executive Director for The AMVETS Department of Ohio. I want to thank each of you for allowing me to provide written proponent testimony for House Bill 254.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia allow some property tax exemptions for veterans in their primary residence. In most states, including Ohio, these exemptions are only awarded to veterans with a 100% disability rating from the Veterans Administration. However, in 5 States, Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, Texas, and Utah, the exemptions begin when a veteran is awarded a minimum disability rating of 10% from the Veterans Administration. We want to see Ohio become the sixth state to implement such a tax exemption law for veterans with a minimum disability rating of less than 100%.

Current statistics show that the veteran population in Ohio is more than 600,000 and the number of service-connected veterans in Ohio is approximately 162,000 or 1.4 % of the approximately 11.75 million Ohio residents. Based on these numbers, the expense to the State for reimbursement to the counties would be minimal, but the assistance earned by these veterans would be immensely helpful.

With the forecasted economic growth coming, a bill like this should be passed to show the nationwide veteran community that Ohio is not only a veteran-friendly state but also a veteran state that they should consider making Ohio their home. Historically, it is shown that veterans are typically excellent employees who are dependable, disciplined, and well-trained.

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chairman Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy, and the other honorable members of the House Ways and Means Committee, I thank you for allowing me to submit proponent written testimony in support of H.B. 254 and urge that you vote this bill out of committee and send it to the Full House.