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Sponsor Testimony- Senate Bill 134
Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee
September 20th, 2023

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 134.

Senate Bill 134 modifies the homestead property tax exemption for certain disabled veterans. You may remember Senate Bill 335 from the 134th General Assembly, this bill is similar, but SB134 only applies to retired Veterans with a disability or Veterans 60 or older with a service related injury. While Senate Bill 335 was estimated to cost the state between 175 and 225 million dollars a year, Senate Bill 134 will only cost the State between 21.3 and 31.9 million. I have provided a copy of the fiscal analysis for your review.

Many states offer homestead exemptions. Common exemptions include those for disabled veterans, current and honorably discharged veterans and veterans who are 65 years of age or older. Ohio currently offers homestead exemptions for 100% disabled veterans, only.

So I ask, what if you are 50%-90% disabled, and are required to wait decades to qualify for homestead exemptions not related to disability, but age? I have friends who are missing limbs, who do not meet that qualification of disability.

Veterans deserve this opportunity foremost because of the sacrifices they made, to include writing a blank check to keep this country free.

I believe a homestead exemption for all Veterans who have a combat related disability will spur economic development and enhance life outcomes for our veterans who have endured unimaginable pain and suffering defending this great nation. Many veterans are self-motivated and will use those savings toward business growth and personal development. However, with the ever growing cost of living this will give significant economic relief too many Ohio Veterans who are on a fixed income. This will also show Ohio is taking more strides to thank those who have served their country.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony for Senate Bill 134