

AN ACT

To amend section 323.151 and to enact sections 5160.471 and 5902.21 of the Revised Code to establish a process for identifying individuals who are medical assistance recipients that may be eligible to receive federal military-related health care benefits and to extend eligibility for the enhanced homestead exemption for disabled veterans to include veterans who receive a total disability rating for compensation based on individual unemployment due to a service-connected disability.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That section 323.151 be amended and sections 5160.471 and 5902.21 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 323.151. As used in sections 323.151 to 323.159 of the Revised Code:

(A)(1) "Homestead" means either of the following:

(a) A dwelling, including a unit in a multiple-unit dwelling and a manufactured home or mobile home taxed as real property pursuant to division (B) of section 4503.06 of the Revised Code, owned and occupied as a home by an individual whose domicile is in this state and who has not acquired ownership from a person, other than the individual's spouse, related by consanguinity or affinity for the purpose of qualifying for the real property tax reduction provided in section 323.152 of the Revised Code.

(b) A unit in a housing cooperative that is occupied as a home, but not owned, by an individual whose domicile is in this state.

(2) The homestead shall include so much of the land surrounding it, not exceeding one acre, as is reasonably necessary for the use of the dwelling or unit as a home. An owner includes a holder of one of the several estates in fee, a vendee in possession under a purchase agreement or a land contract, a mortgagor, a life tenant, one or more tenants with a right of survivorship, tenants in common, and a settlor of a revocable or irrevocable inter vivos trust holding the title to a homestead occupied by the settlor as of right under the trust. The tax commissioner shall adopt rules for the uniform classification and valuation of real property or portions of real property as homesteads.

(B) "Sixty-five years of age or older" means a person who has attained age sixty-four prior to the first day of January of the year of application for reduction in real estate taxes.

(C) "Total income" means Ohio adjusted gross income of the owner and the owner's spouse for the year preceding the year in which application for a reduction in taxes is made, as determined under division (A) of section 5747.01 of the Revised Code.

(D) "Permanently and totally disabled" means that a person other than a disabled veteran has, on the first day of January of the year of application for reduction in real estate taxes, some

impairment in body or mind that makes the person unable to work at any substantially remunerative employment that the person is reasonably able to perform and that will, with reasonable probability, continue for an indefinite period of at least twelve months without any present indication of recovery therefrom or has been certified as permanently and totally disabled by a state or federal agency having the function of so classifying persons.

(E) "Housing cooperative" means a housing complex of at least two units that is owned and operated by a nonprofit corporation that issues a share of the corporation's stock to an individual, entitling the individual to live in a unit of the complex, and collects a monthly maintenance fee from the individual to maintain, operate, and pay the taxes of the complex.

(F) "Disabled veteran" means a person who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States, including reserve components thereof, or of the national guard, who has ~~received~~been discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions, and who has received a permanent-total disability rating or a total disability rating for compensation based on individual unemployability for a service-connected disability or combination of service-connected disabilities ~~for which the schedule for rating disabilities as prescribed in Schedule Title 38, Part 4 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended, prescribes a one hundred per cent evaluation.~~

Sec. 5160.471. (A) As used in this section:

"Federal military-related health care benefits" means any of the health care benefits provided by the United States department of defense or the United States department of veterans affairs to current or former service members and their eligible dependents, including the benefits provided through the programs known as tricare and champva.

(B)(1) The department of medicaid shall review information in the public assistance reporting information system to determine whether an individual who is a medical assistance recipient may be eligible for federal military-related health care benefits. If the department determines that the individual may be eligible for federal military-related health care benefits, it shall notify the individual of the potential eligibility and encourage the individual to contact the veterans service commission in the county in which the individual resides for assistance in applying for the benefits. The department shall provide the appropriate contact information to the individual.

Sec. 5902.21. The director of veterans services shall develop, institute, and monitor a program under which the department of veterans services assists individuals, who are medical assistance recipients, to obtain federal military-related health care benefits. As used in this section, "federal military-related health care benefits" has the meaning defined in section 5160.471 of the Revised Code.

SECTION 2. That existing section 323.151 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. The amendment by this act of section 323.151 of the Revised Code applies to tax year 2015 and thereafter.

Speaker _____ *of the House of Representatives.*

President _____ *of the Senate.*

Passed _____, 20____

Approved _____, 20____

Governor.

Am. S. B. No. 10

131st G.A.

The section numbering of law of a general and permanent nature is complete and in conformity with the Revised Code.

Director, Legislative Service Commission.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the ____ day of _____, A. D. 20 ____.

Secretary of State.

File No. _____ Effective Date _____