

**As Reported by the House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and Public
Safety Committee**

131st General Assembly

Regular Session

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Am. S. B. No. 10

Senators Burke, LaRose

**Cosponsors: Senators Coley, Balderson, Beagle, Brown, Cafaro, Eklund, Faber,
Gardner, Gentile, Hite, Hottinger, Jones, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager,
Patton, Peterson, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Seitz, Skindell, Tavares, Thomas, Uecker,
Widener, Williams, Yuko, Representatives Perales, Bishoff, Landis, Retherford,
Terhar**

A BILL

To amend section 323.151 and to enact sections 1
5160.471 and 5902.21 of the Revised Code to 2
establish a process for identifying individuals 3
who are medical assistance recipients that may 4
be eligible to receive federal military-related 5
health care benefits and to extend eligibility 6
for the enhanced homestead exemption for 7
disabled veterans to include veterans who 8
receive a total disability rating for 9
compensation based on individual unemployability 10
due to a service-connected disability. 11

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 323.151 be amended and sections 12
5160.471 and 5902.21 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as 13
follows: 14

Sec. 323.151. As used in sections 323.151 to 323.159 of 15

the Revised Code: 16

(A) (1) "Homestead" means either of the following: 17

(a) A dwelling, including a unit in a multiple-unit 18
dwelling and a manufactured home or mobile home taxed as real 19
property pursuant to division (B) of section 4503.06 of the 20
Revised Code, owned and occupied as a home by an individual 21
whose domicile is in this state and who has not acquired 22
ownership from a person, other than the individual's spouse, 23
related by consanguinity or affinity for the purpose of 24
qualifying for the real property tax reduction provided in 25
section 323.152 of the Revised Code. 26

(b) A unit in a housing cooperative that is occupied as a 27
home, but not owned, by an individual whose domicile is in this 28
state. 29

(2) The homestead shall include so much of the land 30
surrounding it, not exceeding one acre, as is reasonably 31
necessary for the use of the dwelling or unit as a home. An 32
owner includes a holder of one of the several estates in fee, a 33
vendee in possession under a purchase agreement or a land 34
contract, a mortgagor, a life tenant, one or more tenants with a 35
right of survivorship, tenants in common, and a settlor of a 36
revocable or irrevocable inter vivos trust holding the title to 37
a homestead occupied by the settlor as of right under the trust. 38
The tax commissioner shall adopt rules for the uniform 39
classification and valuation of real property or portions of 40
real property as homesteads. 41

(B) "Sixty-five years of age or older" means a person who 42
has attained age sixty-four prior to the first day of January of 43
the year of application for reduction in real estate taxes. 44

(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 75
disabilities ~~for which the schedule for rating disabilities as~~ 76
~~prescribed in Schedule Title 38, Part 4 of the Code of Federal~~ 77
Regulations, as amended, ~~prescribes a one hundred per cent-~~ 78
evaluation. 79

Sec. 5160.471. (A) As used in this section: 80

"Federal military-related health care benefits" means any 81
of the health care benefits provided by the United States 82
department of defense or the United States department of 83
veterans affairs to current or former service members and their 84
eligible dependents, including the benefits provided through the 85
programs known as tricare and champva. 86

(B) (1) The department of medicaid shall review information 87
in the public assistance reporting information system to 88
determine whether an individual who is a medical assistance 89
recipient may be eligible for federal military-related health 90
care benefits. If the department determines that the individual 91
may be eligible for federal military-related health care 92
benefits, it shall notify the individual of the potential 93
eligibility and encourage the individual to contact the veterans 94
service commission in the county in which the individual resides 95
for assistance in applying for the benefits. The department 96
shall provide the appropriate contact information to the 97
individual. 98

Sec. 5902.21. The director of veterans services shall 99
develop, institute, and monitor a program under which the 100
department of veterans services assists individuals, who are 101
medical assistance recipients, to obtain federal military- 102
related health care benefits. As used in this section, "federal 103
military-related health care benefits" has the meaning defined 104

in section 5160.471 of the Revised Code. 105

Section 2. That existing section 323.151 of the Revised 106
Code is hereby repealed. 107

Section 3. The amendment by this act of section 323.151 of 108
the Revised Code applies to tax year 2015 and thereafter. 109