

## FACT SHEET

### House Bill 3613: Disabled Veteran Exemption

Background	In November 2007, Texas Voters approved an exemption for disabled veterans but no enabling legislation passed. Unlike the veterans' exemption that we are already familiar with, the new one applies ONLY to the veteran's RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD.
Enabling Legislation	<a href="#">House Bill 3613</a> defines who is eligible for the new exemption, the qualification process and the length of qualification.
Who?	A disabled veteran who is 100 percent disabled –OR– unemployable is entitled to an exemption from ALL property taxes. Veterans receive status in a letter sent by the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It is the veteran's and/or the survivor's responsibility to contact the Veterans Affairs Regional Office and request an updated Property Tax Letter awarding a 100% Service Connected disability rating. Survivors still qualify for the old exemption based on disability levels D4 if the Survivor is entitled to or in receipt of Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Benefits.
Qualification process	The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs awards the veteran 100 percent disability compensation due to a service-connected disability and a rating of 100% disabled ---OR--- the veteran must be designated unemployable.
Travis County Numbers	In 2008, there were 3,360 veterans with D4 status representing \$1.5 million in value. Others may qualify if they have a lower disability rating but are unemployable. Overall, there are 5,584 property owners with disabled veteran exemptions (under current law) representing \$2.8 million in value.
How do veterans know about the new law?	Many know through veteran organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the county's Veterans Service Office.
Why is lack of awareness an issue for taxing units?	There are potentially many veterans who may not know about the new law. This presents a problem for taxing units who will soon adopt tax rates based on values that may change substantially as veterans become aware and apply later this year.
What efforts will be made to notify veterans?	TCAD will mail a notice to all veterans who currently show D4. Media efforts to be made by the Chief Appraiser. Follow up with the tax office will include trying to reach veterans through networking with social service agencies. You can help by communicating with customers, family and friends.
How do veterans apply?	Veterans must file an application with the appraisal district office. They may be instructed to get a letter (i.e., VA property tax letter) from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs. All veterans must complete an application <a href="#">provided by Travis Central Appraisal District</a> . (See forms at <a href="http://www.traviscad.org">www.traviscad.org</a> )
When?	Veterans may apply now after obtaining all required documents from the VA. The new law takes effect for tax year 2009.
References	U. S. Department of Veterans' Affairs 800-827-1000 <a href="http://www.va.gov/">http://www.va.gov/</a> Travis Central Appraisal District 512 834-9138 <a href="http://www.traviscad.org">www.traviscad.org</a> Travis County Veterans Service Office 512 854-9340 <a href="http://www.co.travis.tx.us/veterans_services/default.asp">http://www.co.travis.tx.us/veterans_services/default.asp</a>

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