FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886

PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

July 31, 2025

RE: New Veteran's Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans

Dear Mr. Goldstein:

As Moderator of the RTM, please find attached a memo from Paige Walton regarding a new benefit for 100% disabled veterans in Waterford for a real estate tax exemption. I support this additional exemption on behalf of the eligible veterans who have served our country with honor and distinction. In order for this exemption to be offered to our disabled veterans, it is necessary to move quickly to have the benefit available for the next tax year commencing October 1, 2025.

Please refer this matter to the appropriate standing committee of the RTM and have the standing committee work closely with the Town Attorneys to effectuate the ordinance changes necessary by October 1, 2025.

Your assistance and cooperation are appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Robert J. Brule

Robert Brule

Attachment

cc: Paige Walton, Tax Assessor
David Campo, Town Clerk
Nicholas Kepple, Town Attorney
Robert Avena, Town Attorney

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2025 JUL 31 P 3:35
ATTEST: David J. Campo
TOWN CLERK

INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: July 10, 2025

To: Robert Avena, Town Attorney

Robert Brule, First Selectman

From: Paige Walton, Assessor

Subject: PA 25-168

PA 25-168, which includes language amending prior Senate Bill 1276, was signed by the Governor on June 30th and is effective as of October 1, 2025.

PA 25-168 makes changes to and clarifies the existing tax exemption for qualifying veterans with a 100% Permanent and Totally Disabled service connected VA rating. As passed, the bill allows a town to either expand or limit the existing dwelling exemption for P&T veterans. Municipalities can choose to exempt up to two acres of the qualifying veteran's lot; extend the exemption to unmarried surviving spouses of veterans who died prior to the original bill's inception date of 10/1/2024; or limit the exemption amount to the median assessed value of residential real property.

Additionally, under sections 240 & 241, the bill allows for any municipality, by vote of its legislative body to extend the dwelling exemption to qualifying Gold Star spouses and veterans with a rating of TDIU (Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability).

Currently there are six veterans with a TDIU rating that did not receive the dwelling exemption under the veteran's bill that was passed last year. There is also one Gold Star surviving spouse that has recently applied for the existing $20,000 exemption, who would qualify for the dwelling exemption if the municipal option were in place.

If the Town of Waterford chooses to adopt the expanded TDIU and Gold Star exemptions the estimated tax loss in FY 26-27 based on current applications is approximately $30,000.

Att. : PA25-168