

If the subject property is greater than a single family house, only that fraction of \$1250 that corresponds to the part occupied by the veteran, or if deceased, the surviving spouse, will be allowed.

**Clause 22C — \$1500.00** This exemption is available to veterans (and their spouses or surviving spouses) who (1) suffered total disability in the line of duty and (2) and who received assistance in acquiring “specially adapted housing” which they own and occupy as their domicile.

If the subject property is greater than a single family house, only that fraction of \$1500 that corresponds to the part occupied by the veteran, or if deceased, the surviving spouse, will be allowed.

**Clause 22D — Full, with a cap of \$2500 after 5 years** This exemption is available to surviving spouses (who do not remarry) of soldiers, sailors and guardsmen who died due to injury or disease from being in a combat zone, or are missing and presumed dead due to combat.

The surviving spouse must have lived in Massachusetts for at least 5 years OR the soldier, sailor or guardsman had to have been a Massachusetts domiciliary for at least six months before entering the service.

Surviving spouses of soldiers, sailors or guardsmen who died or were presumed dead from combat on or after September 11, 2001 may also receive retroactive exemptions beginning as early as fiscal year 2003. Eligibility depends on the date of death or presumed death, and the satisfaction of all other qualifications

**Clause 22E — \$1000.00** This exemption is available to veterans (and their spouses or surviving spouses) who suffered total disability in the line of duty and are incapable of working.

If the subject property is greater than a single family house, only that fraction of \$1000 that corresponds to the part occupied by the veteran, or if deceased, the surviving spouse, will be allowed.

**Paraplegic — Total Exemption** This exemption is available to veterans who are certified by the Veterans Administration as paraplegic and the surviving spouses of such veterans.

If the subject property is greater than a single family house, only that fraction of \$1000 that corresponds to the part occupied by the veteran, or if deceased, the surviving spouse, will be allowed.

### **WARTIME SERVICE**

Wartime service is service performed by a Spanish War veteran, a World War I veteran, a World War II veteran, a Korean veteran, a Vietnam veteran, a Lebanese peace-keeping force veteran, a Grenada rescue mission veteran, a Panamanian intervention force veteran, a Persian Gulf veteran, or a member of the WAAC. The dates for each qualifying military action are set out in G.L. Ch. 4, Section 7(43).

**For Further Information, contact your local Board of Assessors at:**

**(978)448-1127 or call the:**

**Department of Revenue  
Division of Local Services  
Property Tax Bureau**

**(617) 626-2300**



## TAXPAYER'S GUIDE TO REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS

CLAUSE 22  
CLAUSE 22A  
CLAUSE 22B  
CLAUSE 22C  
CLAUSE 22D  
CLAUSE 22E  
PARAPLEGICS

## QUALIFYING VETERANS

**Massachusetts Department of Revenue  
Division of Local Services  
Bureau of Municipal Finance Law**

## **INTRODUCTION**

A tax exemption is a discharge from the obligation to pay all or a portion of a tax. Exemptions are conferred by the Legislature on particular categories of persons or property.

Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D and 22E of Section 5 of Chapter 59 provide exemptions to certain veterans who were not dishonorably discharged and who meet certain residency requirements, and their spouses, surviving spouses or surviving parents. All eligibility requirements must be met as of July 1 of the tax year.

## **APPLICATIONS**

Applications must be filed annually with the local assessors in the city or town where the property is located on or before December 15th, or three months after the actual tax bills are mailed, whichever is later. Filing an application does not entitle the applicant to a delay in tax payment.

## **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

An individual must (1) have been a Massachusetts domiciliary prior to entering the service OR (2) have lived in Massachusetts for not less than 5 years prior to filing for exemption or, in those communities which have accepted the alternative local option provision, for not less than 1 year prior to filing.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

An applicant for an exemption must provide to the assessors whatever information is reasonably required to establish eligibility. This information may include, but not be limited to:

1. Certification of a wartime service connected disability from the Veterans Administration or the branch of service from which separated.
2. Evidence of domicile and occupancy.

## **DOMICILE**

The veteran, or if deceased, the veteran's surviving spouse or parent, must occupy the property as his or her domicile on July 1 of the tax year.

## **OWNERSHIP**

1. A qualifying applicant must possess a sufficient ownership interest in the domicile as of July 1 of the tax year. This ownership requirement is satisfied if the person's ownership interest is worth at least an amount ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000, depending on the exemption. The person may own this interest solely, as a joint owner or as a tenant in common.
2. The holder of a life estate satisfies the ownership requirement.
3. If the domicile is held in a trust, a person can only satisfy the ownership interest if he or she:
  - Is a trustee or co-trustee of that trust, and
  - Possess a sufficient beneficial interest in the domicile through that trust.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTION AMOUNTS FOR EACH CLAUSE**

**Clause 22 — \$400.00** This exemption is available to the following persons:

1. Veterans with a wartime service connected disability of 10% or more as determined by the Veterans Administration or the branch of service from which separated.
2. Veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart.
3. Gold Star mothers and fathers.
4. Spouses (where the domicile is owned by the veteran's spouse) and surviving spouses (who do not remarry) of veterans entitled to exemption under Clause 22.
5. Surviving spouses (who do not remarry) of World War I veterans so long as their whole worth, less any mortgage on the property, does not exceed \$20,000.

**Clause 22A — \$750.00** This exemption is available to veterans (and their spouses or surviving spouses) who:

1. Suffered in the line of duty the loss or permanent loss of use of one foot or one hand or one eye.
2. Received the Congressional Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross.

If the subject property is greater than a single family house, only that fraction of \$750 which corresponds to the part occupied by the veteran, or if deceased, the surviving spouse, is allowed.

**Clause 22B — \$1250.00** This exemption is available to veterans (and their spouses or surviving spouses) who suffered in the line of duty the loss or permanent loss of use of both feet or both hands or both eyes.