



2026 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 126

Introduced by: **Senator Hohn**

1 **An Act to increase the amount of value exempt from property taxes under a tax**
 2 **relief program for disabled veterans and surviving spouses.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That § 10-4-40 be AMENDED:**

5 **10-4-40.** ~~Two~~Three hundred ~~fifty~~ thousand dollars of the full and true value of
 6 ~~the total amount of~~ a dwelling, or portion thereof, classified as owner-occupied pursuant
 7 to §§ 10-13-39 to 10-13-40.4, inclusive, that is owned and occupied by a veteran who is
 8 rated as permanently and totally disabled from a service-connected disability, is exempt
 9 from property taxation. The veteran shall apply for this partial exemption on a form
 10 prescribed by the secretary of ~~revenue~~ the Department of Revenue. Any application or
 11 supporting document for this exemption is confidential. ~~Any~~ A veteran who would
 12 otherwise qualify for this exemption but fails to comply with the application deadline for
 13 the owner-occupied classification or the deadline for application for this exemption may
 14 petition the board of county commissioners to recalculate the taxes based upon the owner-
 15 occupied classification and this exemption and abate or refund the difference in taxes
 16 pursuant to chapter 10-18.

17 If the director of equalization determines that the veteran receives an exemption
 18 for the veteran's dwelling pursuant to this section, the veteran retains ~~that~~ the exemption
 19 until the property ownership is transferred, the veteran does not occupy the dwelling, or
 20 the property has a change in use. If the legal description of property is changed or
 21 amended and the veteran continues to reside in the dwelling, the veteran retains the
 22 exemption provided by this section.

23 **Section 2. That § 10-4-41 be AMENDED:**

24 **10-4-41.** ~~Two~~Three hundred ~~fifty~~ thousand dollars of the full and true value of
 25 ~~the total amount of~~ a dwelling, or portion thereof, classified as owner-occupied pursuant

1 to §§ 10-13-39 to 10-13-40.4, inclusive, is exempt from property taxation if owned and
2 occupied by:

- 3 (1) The surviving spouse of a veteran who was rated as permanently and totally
4 disabled from a service-connected disability; or
- 5 (2) The surviving spouse of a veteran, who receives dependency and indemnity
6 compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a result of
7 the veteran's service-connected death.

8 The surviving spouse shall apply for this partial exemption on a form prescribed by
9 the secretary of ~~revenue.~~ Any the Department of Revenue. The application ~~of~~ and
10 supporting document for this exemption is confidential. ~~Any~~ A surviving spouse who would
11 otherwise qualify for this exemption but fails to comply with the application deadline for
12 the owner-occupied classification or the deadline for application for this exemption may
13 petition the board of county commissioners to recalculate the taxes based upon the owner-
14 occupied classification and this exemption and abate or refund the difference in taxes
15 pursuant to chapter 10-18.

16 If the director of equalization determines that the surviving spouse receives an
17 exemption for the dwelling pursuant to this section, the surviving spouse retains ~~that~~ the
18 exemption until the property ownership is transferred, the surviving spouse does not
19 occupy the dwelling, the surviving spouse remarries, or the property has a change in use.
20 If the legal description of property is changed or amended and the surviving spouse
21 continues to reside in the dwelling, the surviving spouse retains the exemption provided
22 by this section.