



2026 South Dakota Legislature  
**Senate Bill 12**  
**ENROLLED**

AN ACT

**ENTITLED An Act to provide for a refund of property taxes in previous years for qualifying veterans and surviving spouses.**

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

**Section 1. That § 10-4-24.10 be AMENDED:**

**10-4-24.10.** A dwelling or part of a dwelling designed as provided in § 10-4-24.9 that is owned and occupied for the full calendar year in which a tax is to be levied by a paraplegic veteran, a veteran with the loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, or the unremarried widow or widower of the veteran is exempt from taxation. If the director of equalization determines that a veteran or the veteran's unremarried widow or widower is entitled to the exemption provided in this section, the veteran or the veteran's unremarried widow or widower retains that exemption until the property ownership is transferred, the veteran or the veteran's unremarried widow or widower ceases to occupy the dwelling, or the property has a change in use. If the legal description of the property is changed, the exemption remains in place as long as the veteran or the veteran's unremarried widow or widower continues to reside in the dwelling.

Any veteran who would otherwise qualify for this exemption but fails to comply with the application deadline for the owner-occupied classification or the deadline for application for this exemption may petition the board of county commissioners to refund the taxes paid in any of the previous four years on the property that would otherwise qualify for the exemption. The board of county commissioners may, in its discretion, reject or approve the application for a refund. The petition for, and the consideration and issuance of, a property tax refund under this section must be in the manner set forth in chapter 10-18.

**Section 2. That § 10-18-2 be AMENDED:**

**10-18-2.** The board of county commissioners may compromise, abate or rebate taxes in the following cases:

- (1) The board may abate any or all of the delinquent taxes and penalty on real property if taxes remain unpaid and the property has been offered for sale as required by the code for two successive years and not sold because of depreciation in the value of the property or otherwise, or if any property has been bid in by the county and one year has elapsed since the bid;
- (2) If the board determines that the full amount of any taxes extended and charged against any real property platted into lots and blocks cannot be realized by a sale of the property or otherwise, it may settle or compromise any of the taxes for any year or years as in its judgment is in the best interest of the county;
- (3) The board may compromise, abate, or cancel any taxes extended against any real property conveyed to the State of South Dakota for the benefit of any of its educational institutions, or when the county has acquired lands through foreclosure of permanent school fund mortgage loans, courthouse building fund loans, jail building fund loans, courthouse and jail building fund loans, or through foreclosure of mortgages pledged to the county to secure county deposits or lands taken in satisfaction thereof;
- (4) The board may, as a means of relief, abate in an equitable manner the taxes assessed or extended against real property for the year in which a loss occurred because of flood, fire, storm, or other unavoidable casualty;
- (5) Repealed by SL 1992, ch 80, § 148;
- (6) If the board determines that the full amount of any taxes extended and charged against a centrally assessed railroad company cannot be realized by a sale of the property or otherwise, and the railroad is in bankruptcy or receivership, the board may settle or compromise any of the taxes for any year or years as in its judgment is in the best interest of the county;
- (7) The board may abate or refund the taxes assessed or extended on any real property from which structures have been removed after the assessment date upon verification by the director of equalization;
- (8) The board may abate or refund the taxes pursuant to § 10-6A-4;
- (9) The board may abate or refund the taxes pursuant to § 10-13-40.4;
- (10) The board may abate or refund the taxes pursuant to § 10-4-40; and
- (11) The board may abate or refund the taxes pursuant to § 10-4-24.10.

The amount of any such taxes so compromised, abated, or refunded shall be apportioned pro rata among the several funds and taxing districts affected thereby.

An Act to provide for a refund of property taxes in previous years for qualifying veterans and surviving spouses.

\_\_\_\_\_  
I certify that the attached Act originated in  
the:  
Senate as Bill No. 12

\_\_\_\_\_  
Received at this Executive Office  
this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2026 at \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

By \_\_\_\_\_  
for the Governor

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

The attached Act is hereby  
approved this \_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, A.D., 2026

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,**

ss.

Office of the Secretary of State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

Attest:

Filed \_\_\_\_\_, 2026  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State

Senate Bill No. 12  
File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Secretary of State