

Totally Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption Extended to Surviving

> Spouse

>

> May 26, 2011

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> by Texas RealEstateRama

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> May 26, 2011 - (RealEstateRama) — With only ten minutes remaining in

> the Texas House for consideration of non-local Senate Bills, Speaker

> Straus recognized Representative Bonnen for an important motion.

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> "I make the motion to move to suspend all necessary rules to take up

> and consider Senate Bill 516. Senate Bill 516 is Representative

> Fletcher's bill, and it is appropriate to get this done tonight. It's

> to support our veterans who have given so much to us, so I move to

> suspend all necessary rules to pull this bill up," Representative

> Bonnen motioned.

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> The motion prevailed unanimously, and Senate Bill 516 passed 146-0.

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> This was Representative Fletcher's first bill he filed on November 8,

> 2010, the first day of bill filing for the 82nd Legislative Session.

> Representative Fletcher asked Senator Patrick to carry this bill in

> the Senate, and Senator Patrick did so proudly and successfully. The

> enabling legislation was carried by Doc Anderson in the House and

> Senator Van de Putte in the Senate.

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> "By extending property tax exemptions for veterans to these deserving

> spouses, we are recognizing, at least in small measure, the very real

> sacrifices that these families have made in the defense of our

> country," stated Senator Patrick.

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> Currently, a totally disabled veteran receives a 100% property tax

> exemption. This bill extends the homestead exemption to their

> surviving spouse.

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> "When one of our brave soldiers becomes 100% disabled, the family of

> that soldier has to make career decisions. Far too often the spouses

> of these soldiers forgo career opportunities and many reduce work

> hours, affecting their income and retirement. The best care that can

> be given is from the one you've exchanged vows with," said

> Representative Fletcher.

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> With the passage of this legislation, the spouse will retain the total

> homestead exemption of their current home. If they wish to move about

> the state, closer to family, or to a different home, they will receive

> an exemption on their homestead in the amount equal to the exemption

> they received on their former homestead. This will provide the spouse

> the financial peace of mind by ensuring that their property tax

> exemption continues to be granted and will not expire after the death

> of the disabled veteran.