

Texas Legislation

Report #2:

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Position Paper approved by TCC

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SEVERELY DISABLED VETERANS

1. OBJECTIVE: To help our most needy veterans - the severely disabled.

2. BACKGROUND:

- HB3002 to provide property tax relief to veterans who are 80-90% disabled was filed, passed the House Ways & Means Committee but failed to pass the House in the 85th regular session due to lack of time.
- The same measure again passed the House Ways & Means Committee in the 85thth special session but failed to be heard in the House due to competing similar bills.

3. DISCUSSION:

- This proposal is to reduce property taxes for the severely disabled by the same % as their disability - either 80 or 90%.
- Home values in Texas have increased 30% in Texas in the last five years and continue to climb. Many severely disabled veterans cannot work and cannot keep up their home payments.
- This proposal addresses the most needy of all our veterans. Approximately 58,000 severely disabled veterans would be helped.
- The Legislative Budget Board assigned a fiscal note of \$101m by FY 2020 for this proposal.
- The fiscal impact will not impact certain communities more than others.
- This proposal has widespread support from veterans organizations;
- Non-profit organizations, and individual veterans. It is the right thing to do!
- An amendment to the Texas constitution will be required.

RECOMMENDATION: That the legislature approve this proposal. We must do this for those most deserving veterans who have sacrificed for our nation!