

## CHAPTER 2020-140

### Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1249

An act relating to transfer of tax exemption for veterans; amending s. 196.011, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; amending s. 196.081, F.S.; providing that certain veterans and their surviving spouses receiving a certain homestead tax exemption may apply for and receive a prorated refund of property taxes paid on new homestead property acquired during a certain timeframe; requiring the property appraiser to immediately make certain entries upon the tax rolls to allow a prorated refund under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 196.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

196.011 Annual application required for exemption.—

(1)(a) Except as provided in s. 196.081(1)(b), every person or organization who, on January 1, has the legal title to real or personal property, except inventory, which is entitled by law to exemption from taxation as a result of its ownership and use shall, on or before March 1 of each year, file an application for exemption with the county property appraiser, listing and describing the property for which exemption is claimed and certifying its ownership and use. The Department of Revenue shall prescribe the forms upon which the application is made. Failure to make application, when required, on or before March 1 of any year shall constitute a waiver of the exemption privilege for that year, except as provided in subsection (7) or subsection (8).

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 196.081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

196.081 Exemption for certain permanently and totally disabled veterans and for surviving spouses of veterans; exemption for surviving spouses of first responders who die in the line of duty.—

(1)(a) Any real estate that is owned and used as a homestead by a veteran who was honorably discharged with a service-connected total and permanent disability and for whom a letter from the United States Government or United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor has been issued certifying that the veteran is totally and permanently disabled is exempt from taxation, if the veteran is a permanent resident of this state on January 1 of the tax year for which exemption is being claimed or was a permanent resident of this state on January 1 of the year the veteran died.

(b) If legal or beneficial title to property is acquired between January 1 and November 1 of any year by a veteran or his or her surviving spouse receiving an exemption under this section on another property for that tax year, the veteran or his or her surviving spouse may receive a refund, prorated as of the date of transfer, of the ad valorem taxes paid for the newly acquired property if he or she applies for and receives an exemption under this section for the newly acquired property in the next tax year. If the property appraiser finds that the applicant is entitled to an exemption under this section for the newly acquired property, the property appraiser shall immediately make such entries upon the tax rolls of the county that are necessary to allow the prorated refund of taxes for the previous tax year.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Approved by the Governor June 29, 2020.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 29, 2020.