



114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 850

H.P. 627

House of Representatives, March 21, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative JALBERT of Lisbon. Cosponsored by Representative REED of Falmouth and Senator ERWIN of Oxford.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

An Act to Correct Inequities in the Veterans Tax Exemptions.

1

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

3

5

7

q

11

13

15

17

19

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 1975, c. 550, §1, is further amended to read:

The estates up to the just value of \$4,000, having a C. taxable situs in the place of residence, of veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during any federally recognized war period, including the Korean Campaign and the Viet-Nam Vietnam War, when they shall have reached the age of 62 years or when they are receiving any form of pension or compensation from the United States Government for total disability, service-connected or nonservice-connected, as a veteran. The exemption provided in this paragraph shall apply to the property of such the veteran including property held in joint tenancy with his-of her that veteran's spouse.

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, ¶C-1, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 569, §1, is amended to read:

21

23

25

27

29

31

33

35

37

39

41

43

45

C-1. The estates up to the just value of \$5,000 for the 1978 tax year, and \$6,000 for each tax year thereafter, having a taxable situs in the place of residence of veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during any federally recognized war period during or before World War I and who would be eligible for an exemption under paragraph C.

The exemption provided in this paragraph shall be in lieu of any exemption under paragraph C to which the veteran may be eligible and shall apply to the property of such <u>the</u> veteran, including property held in joint tenancy with his er-her <u>that veteran's</u> spouse.

Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, $\P D$, as amended by PL 1975, c. 550, §2, is further amended to read:

D. The estates up to the just value of \$4,000, having a taxable situs in the place of residence, of the unremarried widow or minor child of any veteran who would be entitled to such exemption if living, or who is in receipt of a pension or compensation from the Federal Government as the widow or minor child of a veteran.

The estates up to the just value of \$4,000, having a taxable situs in the place of residence, of the mother of a deceased veteran who is 62 years of age or older and is an unremarried widow who is in receipt of a pension or compensation from the Federal Government based upon the service-connected death of her son_{f.} Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, ¶D-1, as amended by PL 1977, c. 407, is further amended to read:

1

3

5

7

9

11

13

15

17

19

21

23

25

27

29

37

D-1. The estates up to the just value of \$40,000, having a taxable situs in the place of residence, for specially adapted housing units, of veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during any federally recognized war period and who are paraplegic veterans, so called, within the meaning of the U-S- United States Code, Title 38, chapter 21, section 801, and who received a grant from the United States Government for such specially adapted housing, or of the unremarried widows of such veterans. The exemption provided in this paragraph shall apply to the property of such the veteran including property held in joint tenancy with his-of-her that veteran's spouse.

Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, ¶D-2, as amended by PL 1981, c. 133, §1, is further amended to read:

D-2. The estates up to the just value of \$5,000 for the 1978 tax year, and \$6,000 for each tax year thereafter, having a taxable situs in the place of residence of the unremarried widow or minor child of any veteran who would be entitled to an exemption under paragraph C-1, if living, or who is in receipt of a pension or compensation from the Federal Government as the widow or minor child of a veteran, and who is the unremarried widow or minor child of a veteran who served during any federally recognized war period during or before World War I.

31 The exemption provided in this paragraph shall be in lieu of any exemption under paragraph D to which the person may be 33 eligible.

35 Sec. 6. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, ¶D-3, as amended by PL 1981, c. 133, §2, is further amended to read:

The estates up to the just value of \$5,000 for the D-3. 1978 tax year, and \$6,000 for each tax year thereafter, 39 having a taxable situs in the place of residence of the 41 mother of a deceased veteran who is 62 years of age or older and is an unremarried widow who is in receipt of a pension or compensation from the Federal Government based upon the 43 service-connected death of her son and who is receiving the 45 pension or compensation from the Federal Government based upon the service-connected death of her son during any 47 federally recognized war period during or before World War I.

The exemption provided in this paragraph shall be in lieu of any exemption under paragraph D to which the person may be eligible.

Sec. 7. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, ¶K, as amended by PL 1975, c. 550, §4, is repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Currently, war veterans have a fixed dollar amount of their estates, based on the full just value, exempted from the property tax. This bill eliminates the provision that the estate exemptions be based on full value and requires that it be based on the municipally assessed value.

v

 ${\mathbb C}^{1}$

 I_{i}

3

1

5

7

9

11