

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 163**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman ROBERT AUTH

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Proposes constitutional amendment to increase veterans' property tax deduction to \$1,000, and base future deductions on annual CPI increases.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2021)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend Article VIII,
2 Section 1, paragraph 3 of the Constitution of the State of New
3 Jersey.

4
5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
6 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

7
8 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of
9 the State of New Jersey is agreed to:

10
11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

12
13 Amend Article VIII, Section I, paragraph 3 to read as follows:

14 3. a. Any citizen and resident of this State now or hereafter
15 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
16 from active service, in time of war or other emergency as, from
17 time to time, defined by the Legislature, in any branch of the Armed
18 Forces of the United States shall be entitled, annually to a deduction
19 from the amount of any tax bill for taxes on real and personal
20 property, or both, including taxes attributable to a residential unit
21 held by a stockholder in a cooperative or mutual housing
22 corporation, in the sum of \$50 or if the amount of any such tax bill
23 shall be less than \$50, to a cancellation thereof, except that the
24 deduction or cancellation shall be \$100 in tax year 2000, \$150 in
25 tax year 2001, \$200 in tax year 2002 **【and】** , \$250 in **【each】** tax
26 **【year thereafter】** years 2003 through 2020, and \$1,000 in tax year
27 2021. Thereafter, the deduction or cancellation shall be adjusted
28 annually in proportion to the difference between the Consumer
29 Price Index for 2021 and the Consumer Price Index for each new
30 tax year, provided that the deduction or cancellation shall not
31 decrease and shall be rounded to the next highest multiple of \$1.
32 For the purpose of this paragraph, the definition of “Consumer Price
33 Index” shall be determined from time to time by enactment of the
34 Legislature. The deduction or cancellation shall not be altered or
35 repealed. Any person hereinabove described who has been or shall
36 be declared by the United States Veterans Administration, or its
37 successor, to have a service-connected disability, shall be entitled to
38 such further deduction from taxation as from time to time may be
39 provided by law. The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident
40 of this State who has met or shall meet his or her death on active
41 duty in time of war or of other emergency as so defined in any such
42 service shall be entitled, during her widowhood or his
43 widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a resident of this State,
44 to the deduction or cancellation in this subsection provided for
45 honorably discharged veterans and to such further deduction as

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】 in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 from time to time may be provided by law. The surviving spouse of
2 any citizen and resident of this State who has had or shall hereafter
3 have active service in time of war or of other emergency as so
4 defined in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and
5 who died or shall die while on active duty in any branch of the
6 Armed Forces of the United States, or who has been or may
7 hereafter be honorably discharged or released under honorable
8 circumstances from active service in time of war or of other
9 emergency as so defined in any branch of the Armed Forces of the
10 United States shall be entitled, during her widowhood or his
11 widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a resident of this State,
12 to the deduction or cancellation in this subsection provided for
13 honorably discharged veterans and to such further deductions as
14 from time to time may be provided by law.

15 b. A continuing care retirement community shall receive a
16 veterans' property tax deduction on behalf of eligible veterans. The
17 amount of the property tax deduction shall be the dollar amount of
18 the deduction multiplied by the number of eligible veterans
19 receiving the property tax deduction immediately prior to moving
20 into the continuing care retirement community. A person otherwise
21 eligible for the veterans' deduction who is a resident of a continuing
22 care retirement community shall receive the amount of the
23 deduction to the extent of the share of the taxes assessed against the
24 real property of the continuing care retirement community that is
25 attributable to the unit that the resident occupies. The continuing
26 care retirement community shall provide that amount as a payment
27 or credit to the resident. That payment or credit shall be made to
28 the resident no later than 30 days after the continuing care
29 retirement community receives the property tax bill on which the
30 credit appears. A veterans' property tax deduction shall not be paid
31 on behalf of any eligible veteran who resides in a continuing care
32 retirement community that is property tax-exempt. A resident
33 receiving a payment or credit pursuant to this subsection shall not
34 receive a veterans' property tax deduction on any other residence
35 owned in whole or in part by the resident, or any residence in which
36 the resident's spouse is living.

37 The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State
38 who has met or shall meet his or her death on active duty in time of
39 war or of other emergency as so defined in any such service shall be
40 entitled, during her widowhood or his widowerhood, as the case
41 may be, and while a resident of this State, to the deduction in this
42 subsection provided for honorably discharged veterans. The
43 surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State who has
44 had or shall hereafter have active service in time of war or of other
45 emergency as so defined in any branch of the Armed Forces of the
46 United States and who died or shall die while on active duty in any
47 branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, or who has been
48 or may hereafter be honorably discharged or released under

1 honorable circumstances from active service in time of war or of
2 other emergency as so defined in any branch of the Armed Forces
3 of the United States shall be entitled, during her widowhood or his
4 widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a resident of this State,
5 to the deduction in this subsection provided for honorably
6 discharged veterans.

7 (cf: Art. VIII, Sec. I, par. 3; amended effective December 5, 2019)

8
9 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally
10 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it
11 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election
12 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and
13 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each
14 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
15 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three
16 months prior to the general election.

17
18 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be
19 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and
20 form:

21 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the
22 general election, the following:

23 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,
24 a legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

25 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus
26 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are
27 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the
28 square opposite the word "No."

29 b. In every municipality the following question:

	YES	<p>TITLE</p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to increase the annual veterans’ property tax deduction from \$250 to \$1,000? The increase will take effect in 2021. The new deduction amount may go up each year thereafter if the Consumer Price Index increases.</p>
	NO	<p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>This amendment increases the veterans’ property tax deduction from \$250 to \$1,000. The increase will occur in 2021. The deduction may go up further each year if the Consumer Price Index increases. Any deduction increase will be rounded to the next highest \$1. The deduction will never decrease, even if the Consumer Price Index decreases.</p>

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STATEMENT

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to increase the annual veterans’ property tax deduction. The current annual deduction of \$250 will be increased to \$1,000. That increase will take effect in 2021. In later years, the annual deduction will be further adjusted according to the net increases in the Consumer Price Index since 2021, but the deduction will never decrease. In other words, 2021 will be established as the base year for further deduction increases beyond the initial increase to \$1,000. In each year after 2021, the amount of the deduction will be determined by calculating the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index since 2021, and applying the same percentage increase to \$1,000, the deduction amount in 2021. However, the deduction will not be decreased. So, if there has been a decrease to the Consumer Price Index that would cause the deduction amount to also decrease, then the deduction will be the same as the previous year. Any increase in the amount of the annual deduction will be rounded to the next highest multiple of \$1.

The most recent increase to the annual veterans’ property tax deduction occurred in 2002, from \$200 per year to the current \$250 per year. This proposed constitutional amendment will rely upon enactment of implementing legislation establishing a definition of Consumer Price Index to determine increases in years after 2021.