

More Illinois veterans and disabled persons will be eligible for property tax relief as a result of legislation that was passed into law on October 17, 2007. Public Act 95-0644 creates three new homestead exemptions for Illinois' disabled citizens and qualifying veterans. The legislation also expands current homestead exemptions to provide property tax relief for qualifying Illinois' homeowners and senior citizens.

Three new homestead exemptions will take effect for the 2007 tax year (property taxes paid in 2008).

The new **Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption** (35 ILCS 200/15-167) provides a one-time \$5,000 reduction in a property's equalized assessed value (EAV) to qualifying veterans who return from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the United States. To receive this exemption, the veteran must file an application upon their return home.

The new **Disabled Persons' Homestead Exemption** (35 ILCS 200/15-168) provides a \$2,000 reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a disabled person. A disabled person must file an annual application by the county's due date to continue to receive this exemption.

The new **Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption** (35 ILCS 200/15-169) provides a reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a veteran with a service-connected disability certified by the U. S. Department of Veterans' Affairs. A \$2,500 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 50% but less than 75% or a \$5,000 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 75%. A disabled veteran must file an annual application by the county's due date to continue to receive this exemption.

The current **Disabled Veterans' Homestead Exemption** (35 ILCS 200/15-165) that provides up to a \$70,000 reduction in assessed value for federally-approved specially adapted housing will continue to be available through the local Veterans' Affairs Office.

A disabled person's or disabled veteran's property can receive only one of the following exemptions each year: Disabled Veterans' Exemption (35 ILCS 200/15-165), Disabled Persons' Homestead Exemption (35 ILCS 200/ 15-168) or the Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption (35 ILCS 200/15-169).

The increase in the current homestead exemptions will provide additional property tax relief for some Illinois homeowners and senior citizens.

The maximum reduction on a property's EAV for the current **General Homestead Exemption** (35 ILCS 200/15-175) on owner-occupied residences

will increase from \$5,000 to \$5,500 for the 2008 tax year (property taxes paid in 2009), and increase again to \$6,000 for the 2009 tax year (property taxes paid 2010).

The reduction on a property's EAV for the current **Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption** (35 ILCS 200/15-170) on properties of residents that are 65 years of age or older will increase from \$3,500 to \$4,000 for the 2008 tax year (property taxes paid in 2009).

The current **Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption** (35 ILCS 200/15-172) maximum household income levels for eligibility to freeze a property's EAV will increase from \$50,000 to \$55,000.

For the three **new** homestead exemptions for the **2007 tax year only**, Henry County has extended the due date to file applications until January 31, 2008.

If you have any questions concerning any of the homestead exemptions, or to obtain applications, contact your local County Assessment Office by calling 309-937-3570, visiting the office, or writing to 307 W Center St. Cambridge, IL.