

1 H.320

2 Introduced by Representatives Hooper of Burlington, Birong of Vergennes,
3 Brownell of Pownal, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Gannon of
4 Wilmington, Gardner of Richmond, Hashim of Dummerston,
5 Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Macaig of Williston, Mrowicki of
6 Putney, Nicoll of Ludlow, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Palasik of
7 Milton, Ralph of Hartland, Redmond of Essex, and Troiano of
8 Stannard

9 Referred to Committee on

10 Date:

11 Subject: Motor vehicles; registration fees; taxation; income tax; pension plans;
12 veterans

13 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to waive
14 50 percent of the registration fee for certain motor vehicles upon proof that the
15 registered owner or co-owner is a veteran who received a discharge under
16 other than dishonorable conditions and to exempt from State income taxation
17 the first \$15,000.00 of Vermont state government, federal government, and
18 U.S. Armed Forces pension plan income. This bill also requires the Vermont
19 Office of Veterans Affairs to develop and maintain a database of veterans in
20 Vermont but indicates that any information that is collected is exempt from
21 public inspection and copying.

1 An act relating to reduced motor vehicle registration fees for veterans,
2 exempting certain pensions from taxable income, and the maintenance of a
3 database of veterans in Vermont

4 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

5 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 378 is amended to read:

6 § 378. VETERANS' EXEMPTIONS

7 (a) No fees shall be charged ~~an honorably discharged~~ to a veteran of the
8 U.S. Armed Forces who received a discharge under other than dishonorable
9 conditions and is a resident of the State of Vermont for the registration of a
10 motor vehicle that the veteran has acquired with financial assistance from the
11 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, or for the registration of a motor vehicle
12 owned by him or her during his or her lifetime obtained as a replacement
13 thereof, when his or her application is accompanied by a copy of an approved
14 VA Form 21-4502 issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
15 certifying him or her to be entitled to the financial assistance.

16 (b) A veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces who received a discharge under
17 other than dishonorable conditions and is a resident of the State of Vermont
18 shall be entitled to a 50 percent reduction of the registration fees owed under
19 sections 361 (pleasure cars), 364 (motorcycles), 364a (motor-driven cycles),
20 364b (all-surface vehicles), 373 (exhibition vehicles), 382 (diesel-powered
21 pleasure cars), 3204 (snowmobiles), 3204a (antique snowmobiles), 3305
22 (motorboats), and 3504 (all-terrain vehicles) of this title and 3 V.S.A.

1 § 2822(m) (Clean Air Fund) when his or her registration form or renewal
2 registration form is accompanied by a copy of an approved DD Form 214.
3 This reduction in registration fees shall be available if the veteran is listed as
4 an owner or co-owner of the motor vehicle on any registration forms filed with
5 the Department of Motor Vehicles.

6 Sec. 2. 32 V.S.A. § 5811 is amended to read:

7 § 5811. DEFINITIONS

8 The following definitions shall apply throughout this chapter unless the
9 context requires otherwise:

10 * * *

11 (21) “Taxable income” means, in the case of an individual, federal
12 adjusted gross income determined without regard to 26 U.S.C. § 168(k) and:

13 * * *

14 (B) Decreased by the following items of income (to the extent such
15 income is included in federal adjusted gross income):

16 * * *

17 (iii) recapture of State and local income tax deductions not taken
18 against Vermont income tax; ~~and~~

19 (iv) the portion of federally taxable benefits received under the
20 federal Social Security Act that is required to be excluded under section 5830e
21 of this chapter; and

1 (v) the first \$15,000.00 of income received under the provisions of
2 any pension plan for employees of the Vermont State government or any of its
3 political subdivisions, the federal government, or the U.S. Armed Forces; and

4 * * *

5 Sec. 3. 20 V.S.A. chapter 89 is added to read:

6 CHAPTER 89. VETERANS IN VERMONT

7 § 1751. MAINTENANCE OF A DATABASE OF VETERANS IN
8 VERMONT

9 The Director of the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs shall work with
10 other agencies, offices, and departments to develop and maintain a database of
11 veterans in Vermont. Any personally identifying information about veterans in
12 Vermont collected by the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs is exempt from
13 public inspection and copying under the Public Records Act and shall be kept
14 confidential. Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 317(e), the Public Records Act
15 exemption created in this section shall continue in effect and shall not be
16 repealed through operation of 1 V.S.A. § 317(e).

17 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

18 (a) Notwithstanding 1 V.S.A. § 214, this section and Sec. 2 (pensions) shall
19 apply retroactively to January 1, 2019, and shall apply to taxable year 2019 and
20 thereafter.

- 1 (b) Secs. 1 (motor vehicle registration) and 3 (veterans database) shall take
2 effect on July 1, 2019.