

**From:** Gary De Gasta <gary.degasta@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 3:15 PM  
**To:** Faith Brown <FBrown@leg.state.vt.us>; Ann Cummings <ACUMMINGS@leg.state.vt.us>  
**Subject:** [External] Exempting Military Retiree Pay and Military Survivor Benefits from Vermont State Income Taxes

[External]

Dear Senator Cummings (and Committee Assistant Faith Brown),

I am writing to urge the Senate Finance Committee to support a **full tax exemption for military pensions and military survivor benefits** from Vermont State Income Taxes.

Governor Scott has advocated for total exemption of State Income Taxes for many years. The governor, Veterans Service Organizations, Vermont's Chamber of Commerce and veteran and non-veteran advocacy groups support full tax exemption as "the right thing to do", but also as a sound "investment" in the future -- to encourage current and future veterans and military retirees to remain in state as well as attract new veterans and military retirees to help grow the Green Mountain State economy.

Linking the exemption of military retirement pensions with Social Security benefits is **incongruent!** Of Vermont's 3,923 military retirees that have not (yet) moved out of state, 1,815 are Reserve or Guard retirees and therefore **ineligible** to receive their military pensions **until the age 60!** This would mean 46% of Vermont's current military retirees would have a mere six to seven years of military pay tax exemption before having to choose between exempting military retirement pay or Social Security. **Social Security should NOT be a factor linked to military retirement pay!**

Please share this message with the members of the Finance Committee.

Gary M. De Gasta  
Norwich