

PA Legislation Signed into Law For Veterans October 2025
Jan L. Snyder ALA Unit 272

The Pennsylvania General Assembly passed several pieces of legislation affecting veterans' benefits in 2025. Key updates cover property tax exemptions, pension increases for disabled veterans, and new educational benefits for military families.

- **Property Tax Exemptions**

- The financial need level for the Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption was raised to \$114,637 as of January 1, 2025. Veterans and surviving spouses previously denied due to income should re-apply.
- Federal veterans' benefits are now excluded from income calculations for this exemption, making it easier for disabled veterans to qualify.
- Proposed legislation (HB 1257) would remove the "wartime clause," extending property tax exemptions to all veterans with a disability rating of 50% or higher, regardless of combat service. It would also extend benefits to surviving spouses and create proportional exemptions based on disability rating.
- Lawmakers plan to reintroduce legislation to remove the income limit for 100% disabled veterans' property tax exemptions.

- **Increased Pension for Disabled Veterans**

- House Bill 1144 would increase monthly pension payments for blind, amputee, and paralyzed veterans from \$150 to \$200—the first increase since 1999.

- **Education Benefits**

- The Military Family Education Program (MFEP) was expanded: National Guard members can receive a new assistance grant for each six-year reenlistment, and debt forgiveness is available for certain involuntary separations.
- Military personnel and their dependents reassigned out-of-state are guaranteed in-state tuition rates.

- **Veterans' Awareness and Access**

- Act 31 of 2025 requires employers with more than 50 full-time employees to display information about veterans' benefits in a common area or on their website.
- The "PA VETConnect" program was permanently established, improving veterans' access to services through a statewide resource database.

- **Federal Legislative Action Urged by PA**

- The Pennsylvania Senate passed a resolution urging Congress to pass the Major Richard Star Act, which would end the offsetting of disability pay from retirement pay for medically retired veterans with fewer than 20 years of service.

- **Important Reminders**

- The application deadline for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program is extended to December 31, 2025.
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is transitioning to Login.gov or ID.me for online services in 2025; veterans should update their sign-in information.