

Senate Bill 1513

Sponsored by Senators GIROD, COURTNEY (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes county to exempt up to \$250,000 of assessed value of each homestead owned and occupied by surviving spouse of fire service professional or police officer killed in line of duty from ad valorem property taxes imposed by all taxing jurisdictions. Provides that exemption ends on date of first remarriage of surviving spouse after death of fire service professional or police officer. Requires that application filed with county assessor be made on form prescribed by Department of Revenue and be accompanied by document that is issued by fire service agency or law enforcement unit that employed or utilized fire service professional or police officer at time of death and that certifies that fire service professional or police officer was killed in line of duty.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to a property tax exemption for the homesteads of the surviving spouses of certain public
3 safety officers; and prescribing an effective date.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section:**

6 (a) "Fire service professional" and "police officer" have the meanings given those terms
7 in ORS 181A.355.

8 (b) "Homestead" means the owner-occupied principal dwelling, either real or personal
9 property, owned by a surviving spouse and the tax lot upon which the dwelling is located.

10 (c) "Surviving spouse" means the spouse of a fire service professional or police officer
11 killed in the line of duty who has not remarried after the death of the fire service profes-
12 sional or police officer.

13 (2)(a) A county may provide, by ordinance or resolution, that up to \$250,000 of assessed
14 value of each homestead located in the county shall be exempt from ad valorem property
15 taxes imposed by all taxing jurisdictions on the homestead.

16 (b) An exemption granted under this section applies solely to the period preceding the
17 date of the first remarriage of the surviving spouse after the death of the fire service pro-
18 fessional or police officer and ends on the date of remarriage.

19 (3)(a) A surviving spouse seeking an exemption granted pursuant to this section must file
20 an application with the county assessor on or before April 1 preceding the property tax year
21 for which the exemption is sought.

22 (b) If the homestead designated in the claim for exemption is acquired after March 1 and
23 before July 1, the claim for that year must be filed within 30 days after the date of acqui-
24 sition.

25 (c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subsection, a claim may be filed for
26 the current tax year:

27 (A) On or before December 31 of the tax year, if the claim is accompanied by a late filing

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 fee in an amount equal to the greater of \$200 or one-tenth of one percent of the real market
2 value as of the most recent assessment date of the homestead to which the claim pertains.

3 (B) On or before April 1 of the tax year, if the claim is accompanied by a late filing fee
4 of \$200 and the claimant is a first-time filer, as defined in ORS 307.162, or demonstrates good
5 and sufficient cause, as defined in ORS 307.162, for failing to file a timely claim.

6 (4)(a) An application for an exemption granted pursuant to this section must:

7 (A) Be made on a form prescribed by the Department of Revenue;

8 (B) Designate the property for which the exemption is claimed and be accompanied by
9 documentation showing the surviving spouse's ownership of the homestead;

10 (C) Include a statement setting forth the basis for eligibility for the exemption;

11 (D) Be accompanied by a document that:

12 (i) Is issued by the fire service agency or law enforcement unit that employed or utilized
13 the fire service professional or police officer at the time of death; and

14 (ii) Certifies that the fire service professional or police officer was killed in the line of
15 duty; and

16 (E) Include a written statement signed by the surviving spouse affirming that all infor-
17 mation contained in the application is true.

18 (b) A timely application shall be approved if all requirements for the exemption are met.

19 SECTION 2. This 2016 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2016
20 regular session of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.

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