SB 387-6 (LC 861) 5/20/25 (ASD/ps)

Requested by SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 387

- On page 1 of the printed bill, delete lines 5 through 29 and delete pages 2 through 5 and insert:
- **"SECTION 1.** ORS 307.250 is amended to read:
- 4 "307.250. (1) As used in [this section and ORS 307.260, 307.262 and
- 5 307.270,] **ORS 307.250 to 307.280:**
- 6 "(a) 'Surviving spouse of a veteran' means a veteran's surviving 5 spouse who has not remarried.
- 8 "(b) 'Taxable income' has the meaning given that term in ORS 9 316.022.
- "(c) 'Veteran' has the meaning given that term in ORS 408.225.
- "(2) Upon compliance with ORS 307.260, and subject to subsection (7)
- of this section, there shall be exempt from taxation not to exceed [\$15,000]
- 13 \$60,000 of the assessed value of the homestead or personal property of any
- 14 of the following residents of this state other than those described in sub-
- section (3) **or** (4) of this section:
- 16 "(a) Any veteran who is officially certified by the United States Depart-
- 17 ment of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the Armed Forces of the United
- 18 States as having disabilities of 40 percent or more.
- "(b) Any veteran having served with the United States Armed Forces who,
- 20 as certified by one duly licensed physician or naturopathic physician, is
- 21 rated as having disabilities of 40 percent or more. [However, a veteran shall

- 1 be entitled to the exemption granted under this paragraph only if the veteran
- 2 during the calendar year immediately preceding the assessment year for which
- 3 the exemption is claimed had total gross income, including pensions, disability
- 4 compensation or retirement pay, or any combination of such payments from the
- 5 United States Government on account of such service, of not more than 185
- 6 percent of federal poverty guidelines.]
- 7 "[(c) The surviving spouse remaining unmarried of a veteran, but the ex-
- 8 emption shall apply only to the period preceding the date of the first remar-
- 9 riage of the surviving spouse.]

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- "(c) The surviving spouse of a veteran.
- "(3) Upon compliance with ORS 307.260, and subject to subsection (7)
 - of this section, there shall be exempt from taxation not to exceed [\$18,000]
- \$65,000 of the assessed value of the homestead or personal property of any
- of the following residents of this state:
- 15 "(a) Any veteran who is officially certified by the United States Depart-
- ment of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the Armed Forces of the United
- 17 States as having service-connected disabilities of at least 40 percent [or
- 18 more] but less than 100 percent.
- "(b) The surviving spouse [remaining unmarried] of a veteran described
- 20 in paragraph (a) of this subsection, if the veteran died as a result of
- 21 service-connected injury or illness or if the veteran received at least one year
- of the maximum exemption from taxation [allowed] granted under [para-
- 23 graph (a) of this subsection after 1981 for a veteran certified as having
- service-connected disabilities of at least 40 percent [or more] but less than
- 25 **100 percent**.

- 26 "(4) Upon compliance with ORS 307.260, and subject to subsection
- 27 (7) of this section, there shall be exempt from taxation not to exceed
- 28 \$150,000 of the assessed value of the homestead or personal property
- 29 of any of the following residents of this state:
 - "(a) Any veteran who is officially certified by the United States

- Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States as having:
- 3 "(A) A service-connected disability of 100 percent; or
- "(B) More than one service-connected disability, the ratings of which, if added together, would equal 100 percent or more.
- "(b) The surviving spouse of a veteran described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, if the veteran died as a result of service-connected injury or illness or if the veteran received at least one year of the maximum exemption from taxation granted under this subsection after 2024 for a veteran certified as having service-connected disabilities described in this subsection.
- "[(4)] (5) The amount of the exemption [allowed] granted under subsection (2), [or] (3) or (4) of this section shall equal 103 percent of the amount of the exemption for the prior tax year.
 - "(6)(a) Subject to subsection (7) of this section, the homestead or personal property of any residents of this state described in paragraph (b) of this subsection shall be exempt from taxation under paragraph (c) of this subsection.
- 19 "(b) The residents referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection 20 are:
 - "(A) Any veteran who:

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- "(i) Is officially certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States as having a service-connected disability of 100 percent or as having more than one service-connected disability, the ratings of which, if added together, would equal 100 percent or more; and
- "(ii) Meets the criteria of the United States Department of Veterans
 Affairs for individual unemployability.
- 29 "(B) The surviving spouse of a veteran, if the veteran died as a re-30 sult of service-connected injury or illness or if the veteran received

- at least one year of the maximum exemption from taxation under paragraph (c) this subsection after 2024 for a veteran certified as having service-connected disabilities described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.
 - "(c) If the property taxes assessed on the homestead or personal property of a resident described in paragraph (b) of this subsection for the current property tax year exceeds 14 percent of the resident's taxable income for the last full income tax year preceding the current property tax year, upon compliance with ORS 307.260, the property shall be 90 percent exempt for the next succeeding property tax year.
 - "(7)(a) The exemptions available under this section may be granted only to the homestead or personal property of an otherwise eligible resident who has taxable income for the last full income tax year preceding the current property tax year of not more than \$120,000 if the resident files a separate state return or not more than \$240,000 if the resident files a joint state return.
 - "(b) The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall annually adjust the maximum taxable income amounts specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection to reflect the increase, if any, in the average Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region (All Items), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, since July 1, 2025.
 - "(8)(a)(A) The county assessor shall compute and list the value and compute and list the amount of property taxes that would have been charged on each property receiving an exemption under subsection (4) or (6) of this section had the property not received an exemption.
 - "(B) The county assessor shall subtract the amount of property taxes charged on the exempt property from the amount of property taxes that would have been charged on the property had it not received the exemption.

- "(C) On or before October 15, the county assessor shall certify the amount of the difference computed under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph for each county to the Department of Veterans' Affairs and to the county treasurer.
- "(b) Not later than November 15, the department shall pay to each county treasurer the amount of the difference computed under paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection as certified for the county.
 - "(c) Payments made by the department to the county treasurers under this subsection shall be distributed to the taxing districts of the county in accordance with the schedule of percentages computed under ORS 311.390.
 - "(9) An exemption granted under this section to the property of a surviving spouse of a veteran applies solely to the period preceding the date of the first remarriage of the surviving spouse of a veteran and ends on the date of remarriage.
 - "SECTION 2. ORS 307.260 is amended to read:
- "307.260. (1)(a) Each veteran or surviving spouse **of a veteran** [qualifying for] **seeking** the exemption under ORS 307.250 [shall] **must** file with the county assessor, on forms supplied by the assessor, a claim [therefor] for **exemption** in writing on or before April 1 of the assessment year for which the exemption is claimed, except that when the property designated is acquired after March 1 but prior to July 1 the claim [shall] **must** be filed within 30 days after the date of acquisition.
 - "(b) A claim [need not be filed under this section in order to be allowed] for the exemption described in ORS 307.250 is not required if:
- "(A) The homestead or personal property of the veteran or surviving spouse **of a veteran** was [allowed] **granted** the exemption under ORS 307.250 for the preceding tax year;
- "(B) The individual claiming the exemption is a veteran described in ORS 307.250 (2)(a), [or] (3)(a) or (4)(a) or a surviving spouse of a veteran who

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- meets the requirements of ORS 307.250 (2)(c), [or] (3)(b) or (4)(b) or has complied with subsection (4) of this section; and
- "(C) As of the filing date for the current tax year, the ownership and use of the homestead or personal property and all other [qualifying] conditions of eligibility for the homestead or personal property to be [allowed] granted the exemption remain unchanged.
- "(c)(A) If the individual claiming the exemption is a veteran described in ORS 307.250 (2)(b), the claimant [shall] **must** file a claim annually that satisfies the requirements of subsection (2) of this section on or before the date required in paragraph (a) of this subsection.
 - "(B) If the county assessor has not received a claim filed under this paragraph on or before April 1 of the current year, not later than April 10 of each year, the county assessor shall notify the veteran in the county who [secured] was granted an exemption under ORS 307.250 (2)(b) in the preceding year but who did not [make application therefor] file a claim for the exemption on or before April 1 of the current year. The county assessor may provide the notification on an unsealed postal card. A veteran so notified may [secure] be granted the exemption, if still [qualified] eligible, by [making application therefor to] filing a claim for the exemption with the county assessor not later than May 1 of the current year, accompanied by a late-filing fee of \$10, which shall be deposited in the general fund of the county for general governmental expenses. If the claim for any tax year is not filed within the time specified, the exemption may not be [allowed] granted on the assessment roll for that year.
 - "(2)(a) [The claim shall] A claim filed under this section must set out the basis of the claim and designate the property to which the exemption may apply. Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, there must be affixed to claims for [exemptions] exemption under ORS 307.250 (2)(a), [and] (3)(a) and (4)(a) [shall have affixed thereto] the certificate last issued by United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the branch of the Armed

- 1 Forces of the United States, as [the case may be] applicable, but dated within
- 2 three years prior to the date of the claim for exemption, certifying the rate
- 3 of disability of the claimant.
- 4 "(b) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, there must
- 5 be affixed to claims for exemption under ORS 307.250 (2)(b) [shall, except
- 6 as provided in subsection (3) of this section, have affixed thereto, in addition
- 7 to] the certificate last issued by a licensed physician or naturopathic physi-
- 8 cian and dated within one year prior to the date of the claim for exemption,
- 9 certifying the rate of disability of the claimant[, a statement by the claimant
- 10 under oath or affirmation setting forth the total gross income received by the
- 11 claimant from all sources during the last calendar year].
- "(c) There **must** also [shall] be affixed to each claim the affidavit or af-
- 13 firmation of the claimant that the statements contained [therein] in the
- 14 **claim** are true.
- "(3) The provisions of subsection (2) of this section that require a veteran
- 16 to affix to the claim certificates of the United States Department of Veterans
- 17 Affairs, a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States or a licensed
- 18 physician or naturopathic physician do not apply to a veteran who has filed
- 19 the required certificate after attaining the age of 65 years or to a veteran
- 20 who has filed, on or after September 27, 1987, a certificate certifying a disa-
- 21 bility rating that, under federal law, is permanent and cannot be changed.
- "(4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a surviving spouse
- of a veteran may elect, at any time during the tax year, to continue [the]
- 24 **an** exemption under ORS 307.250 without filing a new claim if:
- 25 "(A) The veteran died during the previous tax year; or
- 26 "(B) The property designated as the homestead was acquired after March
- 27 1 but prior to July 1 of the assessment year and the veteran died within 30
- 28 days of the date the property was acquired.
- 29 "(b) The surviving spouse of a veteran must notify the county assessor
- 30 of the election.

- "(c) Upon receipt of the notice, the county assessor shall continue the exemption if the surviving spouse **of a veteran** meets all of the eligibility requirements for [an] **the** exemption under ORS 307.250 other than the timely filing of a claim under subsection (1) of this section.
- "(d) If taxes on the exempt value have been paid, the taxes shall be refunded in the manner prescribed in paragraph [(d)] (e) of this subsection. If taxes on the exempt value have not been paid, the taxes and any interest on the taxes are abated.
 - "(e) The tax collector shall notify the governing body of the county of any refund required under this section and the governing body shall cause a refund of the taxes and any interest paid to be made from the unsegregated tax collections account described in ORS 311.385. The refund under this subsection shall be made without interest. The county assessor and tax collector shall make the necessary corrections in the records of their offices.

"SECTION 3. ORS 307.270 is amended to read:

- "307.270. (1) The exemption under ORS 307.250 applies to property [a] **that** an eligible veteran or surviving spouse of a veteran owns or has in possession under a recorded contract of purchase.
- "(2) The exemption first applies to the homestead of the veteran or surviving spouse of a veteran and then to the personal property of the veteran or surviving spouse of a veteran.
- "(3) Property of the spouse of [the] a veteran is deemed the homestead of the veteran if the veteran and the spouse of the veteran are living together and occupying the property as their homestead.
- "(4) When a veteran or surviving spouse **of a veteran** applies for exemption on properties in two or more counties, the total amount of the exemption allowed in all counties may not exceed the maximum amount of exemption under ORS 307.250.
- "[(2)] (5) For each [qualified] eligible veteran or surviving spouse of a veteran, only one valid and allowable claim for an exemption on a home-

- stead [shall] **may** be permitted in any one assessment year.
- "SECTION 3a. Section 4 of this 2025 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 307.250 to 307.283.
- "SECTION 4. (1) Upon written request by the county assessor, the
 Department of Revenue shall disclose the information from a
 claimant's income tax return that is necessary for the county assessor
 to make determinations under ORS 307.250 (6)(c) and (7).
 - "(2) The information disclosed by the department may not otherwise be disclosed by the department, or further disclosed by the county assessor, except as otherwise provided in ORS 314.835 or 314.840 or other applicable law.
 - "(3) The county assessor shall provide written notice to the officers, employees and agents of the county who will receive the confidential information of the provisions of ORS 314.835 and 314.991 (2) relating to the penalties for unlawful disclosure of confidential information.
 - "SECTION 5. Section 4 of this 2025 Act and the amendments to ORS 307.250, 307.260 and 307.270 by sections 1 to 3 of this 2025 Act apply to property tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2026.
 - "SECTION 6. There is appropriated to the Department of Revenue, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____ for the purpose of making payments to counties under ORS 307.250 (8)(b).
 - "SECTION 7. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.".