

HB2036 - Proponent
Nicolas Morris,

I have spent the last ten years stationed in Texas serving in the United States Air Force. After incurring several disabilities during my service, I decided it was time to relocate back to my home state of Kansas to settle down and begin spending more time with family as my health has been impaired. Spending so much time in Texas I was amazed at how well Veterans and retirees were supported after service and set up for success after leaving service. It was quickly made apparent that Kansas was not similar in any manner of benefit. Total Property Tax exemption, Education Benefits, Veteran Home improvement, Veteran Entrepreneur Program. Many states even offer sales tax exemption and vehicle property tax exemption.

HB2036 would finally bring Kansas up to par on property tax exemption as most states. Kansas is the only state that does not explicitly offer a property tax exemption. Every single state has some form of partial or full exemption.

Attached is a list of states that offer property tax exemptions for disabled veterans. Currently, Kansas only offers a homestead refund for \$700. The eligibility for this eliminates most disabled veterans if not all.

Only applicable to disabled veterans over 65 and requiring a household income of no more than \$50k. If the veteran is 100 percent disabled by the VA (With Dependents) they are already disqualified. Not to mention any disabled veteran with significant impairment requiring SMC (Special monthly compensation) for loss of limbs, eyesight, or immobility/paralysis are also disqualified. You would think those needing this benefit the most would have access to it. Therefore, Senior disabled veterans would need to have less disability to qualify for benefits. If that veteran has a spouse or family we are now taking into account any other income that may now disqualify them. The median household income in Kansas is \$64,521. The homestead refund also limits how much the property valuation can be before it's not eligible. We are now expecting our veterans to be less disabled, living in squalor, and making very little income to be supported by the state. The amount of veterans this is helping is minimal let alone how much impact \$700 helps in this hyper-inflated housing market.

["Kansas is the 6th 'most moved from' state, new study says"](#) -KMBC

Speaking to veterans I have served with, the biggest importance when leaving service or retiring is going to a state where they are supported. Kansas has no appeal to veterans other than those who have spent time and enjoyed the state firsthand. The appeal is going to a number of states where they are supported after service.

Disabled veterans in Kansas have made tremendous sacrifices for our country and should not be burdened by property taxes. This will provide them with much needed financial relief and help them to live more comfortably. This bill has already been endorsed by several prominent veterans' organizations and is backed by a strong coalition of supporters. With your help, we can make this proposal a reality and ensure that disabled veterans in Kansas get the recognition they deserve.

Very Respectfully,

Nicholas Anthony Morris, DAV

