

--- POSITION PAPER---

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SEVERELY DISABLED VETERANS

1. **OBJECTIVE:** To help our most needy veterans – the severely disabled.

2. **BACKGROUND:**
 - HB3002 to provide property tax relief to veterans who are 80-90% disabled was filed, passed the House Ways & Means Committee but failed to pass the House in the 85th regular session for lack of time.
 - The same measure passed the full House in the 85th special session but failed to cross over to the Senate for lack of time.

3. **DISCUSSION:**
 - This proposal is to reduce property taxes for the severely disabled by the same % as their disability – either 80 or 90%.
 - Home values in Texas have increased 30% in the last five years and continue to climb. Many severely disabled veterans cannot work and cannot keep up their home payments. Many have become homeless!
 - This proposal addresses the most needy of all our veterans. Approximately 58,000 severely disabled veterans would be helped.
 - The Legislative Budget Board assigned a fiscal note of \$101m by FY 2020 for this proposal.
 - The fiscal impact will not impact certain communities more than others. An amendment to GR Account 5160 will allow municipalities near military installations (within 20 miles) to receive compensation for severely disabled veterans if at least 2% of property tax is lost.
 - This proposal has widespread support from veterans organizations, non-profit organizations, and individual veterans. It is simply the right thing to do!
 - An amendment to the Texas constitution will be required.

4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the legislature approve and the governor sign this proposal into law. We must do this for those most deserving veterans who have sacrificed for our nation!

7/19/2018