

SENATE BILL No. 540

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 6-1.1-12-47; IC 10-17-16.

Synopsis: Housing for veterans. Provides a property tax deduction to an owner of real property that uses the owner's real property to provide rental housing to a veteran. Establishes the homeless veterans task force.

Effective: July 1, 2017; January 1, 2018.

Merritt

January 17, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy.



First Regular Session 120th General Assembly (2017)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2016 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 540

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning military and veterans.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 6-1.1-12-47 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JANUARY 1, 2018]: **Sec. 47. (a) An owner of real property is**
4 **entitled to a deduction from the assessed value of the real property**
5 **for an assessment date if:**
6 (1) **on the assessment date, the real property is leased by the**
7 **owner to a veteran (as defined IC 5-22-14-2.5);**
8 (2) **the term of the lease under which the veteran leases the**
9 **real property is at least one (1) year;**
10 (3) **the veteran uses the real property as the veteran's**
11 **principal place of residence; and**
12 (4) **the real property consists of:**
13 (A) **a dwelling and the land, not exceeding one (1) acre,**
14 **that immediately surrounds the dwelling; or**
15 (B) **a unit in an apartment.**
16 (b) **The amount of the deduction to which a property owner is**
17 **entitled under this section is equal to one hundred percent (100%)**



1 of the assessed value of the real property.

2 (c) An applicant that desires to obtain the deduction provided
3 by this section must file a certified deduction application with the
4 auditor of the county in which the real property is located. The
5 application must contain the information and be in the form
6 prescribed by the department of local government finance. The
7 application must be completed and dated in the calendar year for
8 which the person wishes to obtain the deduction and filed with the
9 county auditor on or before January 5 of the immediately
10 succeeding calendar year.

11 (d) Section 40.5 of this chapter does not apply to the deduction
12 granted under this section.

13 SECTION 2. IC 10-17-16 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
14 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
15 JULY 1, 2017]:

16 **Chapter 16. Homeless Veterans Task Force**

17 **Sec. 1.** As used in this chapter, "task force" refers to the
18 homeless veterans task force established under section 2 of this
19 chapter.

20 **Sec. 2. (a)** The homeless veterans task force is established.

21 (b) The task force consists of the following thirteen (13) voting
22 members:

23 (1) The following members, appointed by the director of the
24 department of veterans' affairs:

25 (A) One (1) member representing the division of mental
26 health and addiction established by IC 12-21-1-1.

27 (B) A representative of the Indiana housing and
28 community development authority established by
29 IC 5-20-1-3.

30 (C) A representative of the office of the secretary of family
31 and social services established by IC 12-8-1.5-1.

32 (D) A representative of the veterans' affairs commission
33 established by IC 10-17-13-4.

34 (E) A representative of the department of veterans' affairs
35 established by IC 10-17-1-2.

36 (F) A representative of the department of workforce
37 development established by IC 22-4.1-2-1.

38 (G) One (1) county service officer.

39 (2) The following members, appointed by the governor:

40 (A) One (1) member representing a nonprofit organization
41 that serves homeless veterans.

42 (B) One (1) member with experience in education,



- 1 including higher education, vocational education, or adult
 2 education.
 3 (C) One (1) member with experience in investment banking
 4 or finance.
 5 (D) One (1) member representing a local veterans
 6 organization.
 7 (E) One (1) member representing a state veterans
 8 organization.
 9 (F) One (1) member representing a national veterans
 10 organization.
 11 (c) The director of the department of veterans' affairs or the
 12 director's designee:
 13 (1) is a nonvoting member of the task force; and
 14 (2) shall serve as the chairperson.
 15 (d) The expenses of the task force shall be paid by the
 16 department.
 17 (e) A quorum consists of the majority of the members of the task
 18 force.
 19 (f) The affirmative votes of a majority of the voting members
 20 appointed to the task force are required for the task force to act on
 21 any measure.
 22 (g) The members of the task force serve at the pleasure of the
 23 governor.
 24 (h) The chairperson of the task force shall fill any vacancy on
 25 the task force not later than forty-five (45) days after the vacancy
 26 occurs.
 27 Sec. 3. (a) A member of the task force who is not a state
 28 employee is entitled to the minimum salary per diem provided by
 29 IC 4-10-11-2.1(b). The member is also entitled to reimbursement
 30 for traveling expenses as provided under IC 4-13-1-4 and other
 31 expenses actually incurred in connection with the member's duties
 32 as provided in the state policies and procedures established by the
 33 Indiana department of administration and approved by the budget
 34 agency.
 35 (b) A member of the task force who is a state employee but who
 36 is not a member of the general assembly is entitled to
 37 reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided under
 38 IC 4-13-1-4 and other expenses actually incurred in connection
 39 with the member's duties as provided in the state policies and
 40 procedures established by the Indiana department of
 41 administration and approved by the budget agency.
 42 Sec. 4. (a) The task force shall prepare a comprehensive plan to



1 provide housing and support services to homeless veterans.

2 (b) The plan required by subsection (a) must include the
3 following:

4 (1) Processes and procedures for moving homeless veterans
5 into housing directly from the streets or emergency shelter
6 care without a precondition of accepting or complying with:

7 (A) employment or job training requirements;

8 (B) substance abuse or addiction treatment requirements;

9 (C) educational requirements; or

10 (D) other requirements concerning life skills or mental or
11 physical health.

12 (2) Resources for support services, including:

13 (A) employment assistance and job training;

14 (B) substance abuse and addiction treatment;

15 (C) educational assistance;

16 (D) life skills assistance; and

17 (E) treatment for, and the management of, mental and
18 physical health problems;

19 that are predicated on assertive engagement rather than
20 coercion. Support services described in clause (B) must be
21 predicated on a harm reduction approach to addiction, rather
22 than mandating abstinence, while supporting a veteran's
23 commitment to recovery.

24 (3) Annual goals to reduce veteran homelessness and chronic
25 veteran homelessness:

26 (A) in Indiana as a whole; and

27 (B) in particular regions, communities, and metropolitan
28 statistical areas within Indiana.

29 (4) Partnerships with public entities and private entities,
30 including any of the following, to provide support services and
31 a continuum of care for veterans:

32 (A) Nonprofit or faith based organizations providing
33 services to homeless individuals and families.

34 (B) Units of local government.

35 (C) School corporations and schools.

36 (D) Businesses.

37 (E) Public housing agencies.

38 (F) Social service providers.

39 (G) Mental health providers.

40 (H) Hospitals.

41 (I) Affordable housing developers and providers.

42 (J) Law enforcement agencies and correctional facilities.



- 1 **(K) Organizations serving homeless veterans.**
 2 **(L) Organizations serving victims of domestic violence.**
 3 **(M) Universities.**
 4 **(N) Other public or private entities with which the task**
 5 **force considers appropriate to partner to accomplish the**
 6 **purposes of the plan.**
 7 **(c) In compiling the plan required by this section, the task force**
 8 **may collaborate with or seek guidance from:**
 9 **(1) other appropriate state agencies, including the department**
 10 **of correction, the state department of health, and the office of**
 11 **the secretary of family and social services (and appropriate**
 12 **divisions within the office of the secretary of family and social**
 13 **services);**
 14 **(2) officials in other states or municipalities;**
 15 **(3) federal agencies; and**
 16 **(4) any of the entities listed in subsection (b)(4).**
 17 **Sec. 5. The department of veterans' affairs shall staff the task**
 18 **force.**
 19 **Sec. 6. Not later than November 1, 2020, the task force shall**
 20 **submit to the legislative council in an electronic format under**
 21 **IC 5-14-6 the plan described in section 4 of this chapter.**
 22 **Sec. 7. This chapter expires December 31, 2020.**
 23 **SECTION 3. [EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018] (a) IC 6-1.1-12-47,**
 24 **as added by this act, applies to assessment dates after December 31,**
 25 **2017.**
 26 **(b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2021.**

