

HOUSE No. 3353

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John C. Velis

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act clarifying disabled veteran's motor vehicle-related tax and fee exemptions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>
<i>Timothy R. Whelan</i>	<i>1st Barnstable</i>

HOUSE No. 3353

By Mr. Velis of Westfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3353) of John C. Velis, David F. DeCoste and Timothy R. Whelan relative to motor vehicle-related tax and fee exemptions for certain disabled veterans. Revenue.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act clarifying disabled veteran's motor vehicle-related tax and fee exemptions.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Chapter 60A of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the following from lines 101
3 through 104:-

4 "by reason of service in the armed forces of the United States, has suffered loss, or
5 permanent loss of use of, one or both feet, or loss, or permanent loss of use of, one or both hands,
6 or has been determined by the medical advisory board established under section 8C of chapter 90
7 to be permanently disabled;"

8 and in place thereof inserting the following words:-

9 "suffers from a service-connected combined disability rating of 60% or more, provided
10 that such a disability rating has been verified by said Administration with written documentation
11 and the signature of a licensed Massachusetts physician, or who has been determined to be

12 permanently disabled by the medical advisory board established under section 8C of chapter 90
13 and is eligible for a disabled veteran number plate under section 2 of said chapter 90;"

14 SECTION 2. Section 6, subsection (u) of Chapter 64H of the Massachusetts General
15 Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 350-
16 352 the following:

17 "and has been issued a disabled veteran number plate under section 2 of said chapter 90."
18 and inserting in place thereof the following words:-

19 "and is eligible for a disabled veteran number plate under section 2 of said chapter 90, or
20 by and for the use of a veteran who, according to the records of the United States Veterans
21 Administration, suffers from a service-connected combined disability rating of 60% or more,
22 provided that such a disability rating has been verified by said Administration with written
23 documentation and the signature of a licensed Massachusetts physician."

24 SECTION 3. Section 33(29) of chapter 90 is hereby amended by striking out the
25 following words:-

26 "by a disabled veteran who is entitled to display thereon the distinctive number plates
27 authorized by section 2"

28 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

29 "a veteran, as defined in section 7 of chapter 4, who according to the records of the
30 United States Veterans Administration, suffers from a service-connected combined disability
31 rating of 60% or more, provided that such a disability rating has been verified by said
32 Administration with written documentation and the signature of a licensed Massachusetts

33 physician, or who has been determined to be permanently disabled by the medical advisory
34 board established under section 8C of chapter 90 and is eligible for a disabled veteran number
35 plate under section 2 of said chapter 90,"

36 SECTION 4. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as amending the requirements set forth
37 by the Medical Advisory Board of the Registry of Motor Vehicles to qualify for Disabled
38 Veterans number plates as authorized in under section 2 of chapter 90.

39 SECTION 5. The exemptions herein shall apply to any disabled veteran who qualifies for
40 disabled veteran number plates as determined by the Medical Advisory Board, even if they
41 choose not to use said plates. It shall also apply to veterans who have documentation proving
42 they suffer from a combined service-connected disability rating of 60% or more, as determined
43 by the United States Veterans Administration, who do not go through the Medical Advisory
44 Board process, as they do not have a specific handicap that would qualify them for disabled
45 veteran number plates.

46 SECTION 6. The authority responsible for administering fees and taxes amended herein
47 may govern the process by which an eligible disabled veteran applies for exemption, so long as
48 such processes do not reasonably preclude eligible persons from applying and receiving said
49 exemptions in a timely manner.

50 SECTION 7. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to mean that written documentation
51 from the Veterans Administration must be verified by a doctor working at said Administration.
52 Any signature from a licensed Massachusetts physician who would have reasonable knowledge
53 that the Veteran's Administration documentation is true, shall have the authority to verify the
54 disability rating.