

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA



January 7, 2005

From: Wayne E. Mooney, Adjutant/Treasurer
Disabled American Veterans
Department of Montana
P.O. Box 777
Victor, Montana 59875-0777

SENATE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

EXHIBIT NO. 3

DATE: 1/11/05

BILL NO. SB 79

Re: Senate Bill 79 - "Support the inclusion of a second vehicle for the spouse of a veteran with a 100% disability rating or a veteran paid at the 100% rate for unemployable due to the veterans service connected disability, POWS' and 50% disabled veterans with a purple heart."

To Whom it May Concern:

Montana law (15-6-211, MCA) clearly states that the tax exemption is applicable to a veteran that has been "rated" 100% disabled because of a service-connected disability or if the veteran is "paid" at 100% disability, but is not "rated" at 100% disability due to their service connected disability. These veterans qualify for the state property and vehicle tax exemptions. It also states that the surviving spouse of such a veteran is also entitled to the same property and vehicle tax exemptions after the death of said veteran.

It is the intension of the Disabled American Veterans Department of Montana (D.A.V.) and its 5,500 Montana members to represent the more than 20,000 disabled veterans within the state of Montana with legislation that is fair and equitable to the disabled veteran, the veterans' family and to the financial stability of the state of Montana.

The D.A.V. believes that the current vehicle tax exemption law is not fair or equitable to all totally disabled veterans within Montana and their families. Most families in Montana, if not all have at least two vehicles per household because of the great distances between communities and proper medical care. It is the belief of the Disabled American Veterans Department of Montana that Montana Law already provides for this inequity by stating that the spouse of the above-mentioned veterans also qualifies for said benefits and that SB79 makes it a reality during a time when the family unit can use it the most.

Your immediate attention to this matter would be very much appreciated, as well as your time, effort and support in helping many Montana families with a fair and equitable tax exemption for all permanent-total disabled veterans in Montana.

Sincerely,

Wayne E. Mooney, Adjutant/Treasurer
D.A.V. Department of Montana