

SENATE THIRD READING  
SB 82 (Seyarto)  
As Amended August 28, 2023  
Majority vote

## SUMMARY

This bill requires a county assessor to accept from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) an electronically generated letter of service-connected disability in lieu of an original letter of service-connected disability, at the discretion of the claimant, when verifying eligibility for the disabled veterans' property tax exemption, and is double-jointed with Assembly Bill 1361.

### Major Provisions

- 1) Requires a county assessor to accept an electronically-generated letter of service-connected disability in lieu of an original letter of service-connected disability, at the discretion of the claimant, when verifying eligibility for the disabled veterans' exemption.
- 2) Defines "letter of service-connected disability" as a letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) that provides a benefit summary of the claimant's service-connected disability for purposes of claiming disabled veterans' exemptions.
- 3) Provides that the state shall not reimburse local agencies for property tax revenue losses, instead stating that should the Commission on State Mandates determine that the bill imposes a reimbursable mandate, reimbursement must be made pursuant to existing statutory provisions.
- 4) Is double-jointed with Assembly Bill 1361, which permits a county assessor to provide written or electronic determination of preliminary eligibility for the disabled veterans' property tax exemption.

## COMMENTS

This bill is intended to address a purported deviation in practices between county assessors in establishing eligibility for the property tax exemption made available to disabled veterans, their spouses, and their surviving spouses. According to the author, some assessors accept electronically-generated letters establishing disability from the USDVA, while a few others accept only printed originals.

### According to the Author

"SB 82 establishes universal standards between counties on document requirements for the disabled veterans' property tax exemption. This clarification of acceptable documents will serve to remove arbitrary barriers to well-deserved benefits for our veterans and their families."

### Arguments in Support

The California Assessors' Association states: "We believe it is our duty to continue to support our nation's disabled veterans and that we continue to adjust to the ever-changing times of technological advances and use them as a tool to support our communities."

### Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

### FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, negligible costs to county assessors to accept an electronically generated service-connected disability letter in lieu of an original letter. While these costs are potentially reimbursable by the state, subject to a determination by the Commission on State Mandates, it is unlikely a county would submit a claim.

### VOTES

#### SENATE FLOOR: 37-0-3

**YES:** Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Ashby, Atkins, Becker, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Glazer, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, McGuire, Menjivar, Min, Newman, Nguyen, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Seyarto, Skinner, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Umberg, Wahab, Wiener, Wilk

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Blakespear, Gonzalez, Limón

#### ASM MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS: 9-0-2

**YES:** Soria, Davies, Addis, Boerner, Juan Carrillo, Mathis, Petrie-Norris, Ta, Valencia

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Alvarez, Muratsuchi

#### ASM REVENUE AND TAXATION: 10-0-1

**YES:** Irwin, Wallis, Bains, Grayson, Pacheco, Jim Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Ta, Valencia, Zbur

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Luz Rivas

#### ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-1

**YES:** Holden, Megan Dahle, Bryan, Calderon, Wendy Carrillo, Dixon, Mike Fong, Hart, Lowenthal, Mathis, Papan, Sanchez, Soria, Weber, Wilson

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Pellerin

### UPDATED

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