
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Military Service Tax Exemption

Description

The Military Service Tax Exemption was established in 1886. Iowa Code section [426A.11](#) provides a property tax exemption of \$1,852 of assessed property valuation for veterans with active or reserve duty service in the armed forces. For veterans of World War I, the exemption is \$2,778 of assessed property valuation.

Periods of “active duty” and length of reserve service are specified by statute. On average, a veteran’s property taxes are reduced by approximately \$65 per year at current property tax rates. Local governments are partially reimbursed by the State for providing the Military Service Property Tax Exemption. The reimbursement amount is up to the amount the local government would have collected had there been a consolidated levy rate no greater than \$6.92 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

For purposes of the Military Service Tax Exemption, “veteran” means a resident of Iowa who served in the United States Armed Forces for a minimum of 18 months and was honorably discharged. A veteran may also be an Iowa resident who served in the armed forces for less than 18 months and was honorably discharged due to a service-related injury. Iowa Code section [35.1](#) identifies a veteran by participation in specific wars and conflicts.

Funding

The Military Service Tax Exemption is funded with a standing unlimited General Fund appropriation established in Iowa Code section [426A.2](#). The annual appropriation amount is approximately \$2.0 million, which reimburses local governments for the exemption.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [426A](#)

Iowa Code section [35.1](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [701—80](#)

Budget Unit Numbers

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More Information

Property Tax Credits and Exemptions: tax.iowa.gov/property-tax-credits-and-exemptions
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