

Subject: Favorable SB911 Property Tax Exemption For The Blind

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From: Edwin Jackson

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To: House Ways and Means Committee

Please support SB911, a bill that will raise the tax exemption for the blind to \$40,000. I am a Veteran whose military career, spans 22 years, active service US ARMY, from 1973-77, and Army Reserves Reserves, from 1977-95, encompassing, Vietnam and Desert Storm. I lost my vision in 2005. I appreciate the Veterans' benefits that I have, in many instances they don't go far enough. However, I believe that the blindness exemption is very necessary.

I learned about the property exemption from other blind people. I have been using it since I went blind 20 years ago. The exemption has not been raised since 2000, while my property taxes have gone up considerably over that period of time, as well as the increasing costs to maintain and upgrade your property. In 2019, I needed a bigger home, a multigenerational home to accommodate taking care of my adult disabled son until his death in 2022, and my recently widowed daughter who needed a place to live with her three teenage children. We needed a large home, and while this property tax exemption helped, the value of my home is \$600,000. As you can see, I could use a raise in the property tax exemption.

The way the government spends money reflects the values of society. Blind people need a helping hand. Please support SB911.