

9. (35) (a).

The dwelling house and the lot or curtilage whereon the same is erected, of any citizen and resident of this State now, or hereafter honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in any branch of the armed forces, who has been or shall be declared by the United States Veterans' Administration or its successors to have a service-connected disability from total blindness, [or from paraplegia or permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body resulting from traumatic injury to the spinal cord or brain, or from the amputation of both arms or both legs, or by reason of amputation, ankylosis, progressive muscular dystrophies or paralysis of both lower extremities, such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes or wheel chair, or who has qualified and received a grant for specially adapted housing under the requirements of the Veterans' Administration.] or other cause which has been evaluated as 100 per cent disabling, and such disability has been determined by the Veterans' Administration or its successor to be permanent in character. To meet the requirements of permanency it must be affirmatively shown that the 100 percent disability is reasonably certain to continue throughout the life of the veteran, provided that no such exemption shall be granted for any disability which was caused or incurred through the misconduct of the veteran concerned. It shall be incumbent upon the veteran to furnish a suitable certification of the Veterans' Administration or its successor showing the character of the disability which is 100 percent disabling. The details of the certification shall not be open to public inspection, except by the veteran, or by officers of the State and/or any city or county affected thereby. In the event of the veteran's death, the spouse of said veteran shall retain the exemption for such time as he or she, as the case may be, remains unmarried and remains the owner and resident of the property in question. The dwelling house and the lot or curtilage whereon the same is erected of any blind person shall also be exempt from taxation, up to an assessed valuation of \$6,000, in any instance; and for the purpose of this subsection a person shall be considered blind if he has permanent impairment of both eyes of the following status: central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective glasses, or central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than twenty degrees in the better eye. Such exemption shall be in addition to any other exemption of such person's real and personal property which now is or hereafter shall be prescribed or allowed by the Constitution or by law, but no taxpayer shall be allowed more than one exemption under this subsection.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1969.

Approved May 14, 1969.