

Unified Regulatory Plan of the Department of Veterans Services for State Fiscal Year 2026



Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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VETERANS**

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Prepared on June 30, 2025

Description of Agency

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) proudly serves veterans across the Commonwealth by connecting Virginia's veterans and their families to federal and state benefits, support, quality care, and recognition they have earned. DVS is organized into six service delivery sections: Benefits; Veterans Education, Transition, and Employment (VETE); Virginia Veteran and Family Support Program (VVFS); Care Centers; Cemeteries; and the Virginia War Memorial.

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not available	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Change 1-VAC-80-20 and Guidance Document to conform with the change from <i>“Exemption from taxes on property of surviving spouses of members of the armed forces killed in action”</i> to <i>“Exemption from taxes on property of surviving spouses of members of the armed forces who died in the line of duty”</i> as approved in the November 5, 2024 General Election and effective January 1, 2025.	
Brief Overview The voters of Virginia, in the November 5, 2024 General Election, approved a referendum to amend the Constitution of Virginia to change eligibility for real estate tax exemption for surviving spouse of members of the armed forces <i>“killed in action”</i> to <i>“who died in the line of duty.”</i> The change was effective January 1, 2025 (Acts 2024, c. 583, cl. 3) DVS is working on a two-step process: 1. Amend 1-VAC-80-20; then 2. Update the <i>“Guidelines Governing the Administration of the Veteran and Surviving Spouse Property Tax Exemptions”</i> document, which is published on Virginia Regulatory Town Hall	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☒ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☒ Expedited Review Requested (1-VAC-80-20) ☐ Exempt Action ☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☐ Discretionary Action
Deregulatory Component	In conjunction with updating the <i>“Guidelines Governing the Administration of the Veteran and Surviving Spouse Property Tax Exemptions”</i> document to reflect the change from <i>“Killed in Action”</i> to <i>“Died in the Line of Duty,”</i> DVS will formally implement the reduction (from 98 pages to 54 pages) in the length of the guidance document.
Expected Date	October 2025