



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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House Bill 82 Signed into Law

Missouri Veterans to Receive a Complete State Tax Exemption on their Retirement Benefits

JEFFERSON CITY— Veterans in Missouri will be able to keep more of their hard-earned income sooner thanks to [House Bill 82](#), handled in the Senate by Sen. David Pearce (R-Warrensburg). Governor Jay Nixon signed the bill today in Cape Girardeau.

Two years ago, the Legislature passed into law a bill that gradually eliminates taxes on Social Security or public pension benefits for Missourians age 62 and older who do not exceed a certain income cap. However, the bill didn't offer a complete tax exemption to all Missouri veterans for their retirement benefits until they reached age 62. House Bill 82 will exempt military retirement benefits immediately upon retirement, without waiting until the retiree turns 62.

"Many states, including Kansas and Illinois, exempt military retirement benefits, so this legislation puts our state on par with our neighbors," said Sen. Pearce. "Hopefully, more military retirees will choose to live in Missouri, instead of moving to other states that offer this benefit."

House Bill 82, which passed in the Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support, phases in a 100 percent income tax exemption for veterans on their military benefits. The exemption increases by 15 percent annually beginning in 2010 until it is fully implemented at 100 percent in 2016.

"Our military men and women deserve our respect and gratitude, and we must work continually to show our appreciation for their sacrifices," said Sen. Pearce. "This legislation will allow retired veterans to keep more of their hard-earned income, which is just one way the state can recognize our veterans. I am pleased that colleagues in the House and Senate stood behind this important legislation this session and that the governor signed it into law today."

House Bill 82 was sponsored in the House by Representative Will Kraus (R-Lee's Summit). Both Rep. Kraus and Sen. Pearce were recently honored by the Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) at their recent state convention as Legislators of the Year for their efforts to pass HB 82.

The new law will go into effect on August 28, 2009.

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