

COLORADO STATE SENATE

MAJORITY OFFICE



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Law to help disabled vets' families signed on Memorial Day



DENVER – The Memorial Day tribute at Fairmount Cemetery today was a fitting backdrop as Gov. Hickenlooper signed a law to help the surviving spouses of disabled veterans, as well as seniors displaced by natural disasters.

Veterans with 100 percent disability are eligible for the Homestead Property Tax Exemption, which exempts 50 percent of the first \$200,000 of the actual value of their primary residence. This new law extends the tax exemption to the surviving spouses of eligible disabled veterans.

Bill sponsor Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, D-Arvada, said HB 14-1373 partially recognizes the tremendous sacrifices by our service men and women.

“This is one way we can say ‘thank you’ to them and their families, and to provide some appropriate financial relief,” she said.

The law also updates the Homestead Tax Exemption in response to the 2013 flooding, which destroyed 1,852 homes in Northern Colorado. It waives the requirement that seniors own their property for 10 years prior to eligibility if they were forced to move because of a natural disaster.

“This law is another example of our commitment in the legislature to help Coloradans and their communities move forward from last year’s devastating floods,” Sen. Zenzinger said. “This important tax exemption helps seniors to continue living independently, and it’s a benefit they should keep if their home is destroyed by flood or wildfire.”

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About Sen. Rachel Zenzinger: Sen. Rachel Zenzinger serves Colorado Senate District 19, which spans most of Arvada and the Jefferson County portion of Westminster. She was appointed to her seat and sworn into office on Dec. 13, 2013. She serves on the Senate Education Committee, Senate Local Government Committee and she is a Senate advisor to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Her professional background is in education, and she was coordinator of the Regis University Master of Arts in Education program. For more information about Sen. Zenzinger, please go to www.RachelForColorado.com or call her at 303-866-4840.