

AN ACT

RELATING TO PROPERTY TAXATION; EXTENDING THE VETERAN
EXEMPTION TO VETERANS WHO SERVED HONORABLY IN THE ARMED
FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES ON ACTIVE DUTY DURING THE
GRENADA CONFLICT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 7-37-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973,
Chapter 258, Section 38, as amended) is amended to read:

"7-37-5. VETERAN EXEMPTION.--

A. Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) of the taxable
value of property, including the community or joint property
of husband and wife, subject to the tax is exempt from the
imposition of the tax if the property is owned by a veteran
or the veteran's unmarried surviving spouse if the veteran
or surviving spouse is a New Mexico resident or if the
property is held in a grantor trust established under
Sections 671 through 677 of the Internal Revenue Code, as
those sections may be amended or renumbered, by a veteran or
the veteran's unmarried surviving spouse if the veteran or
surviving spouse is a New Mexico resident. The exemption
shall be deducted from taxable value of property to
determine net taxable value of property.

B. The veteran exemption shall be applied only
if claimed and allowed in accordance with Section 7-38-17

NMSA 1978 and regulations of the department.

C. As used in this section, "veteran" means an individual who:

(1) has been honorably discharged from membership in the armed forces of the United States;

(2) served in the armed forces of the United States on active duty continuously for ninety days, any part of which occurred during a period specified in Paragraph (3) of this subsection; and

(3) served in the armed forces of the United States during one or more of the following periods of armed conflict under orders of the president:

(a) any armed conflict prior to World War I;

(b) World War I which, for the purposes of this section, is defined as the period April 6, 1917 through April 1, 1920;

(c) World War II which, for the purposes of this section, is defined as the period December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946;

(d) the Korean conflict which, for the purposes of this section, is defined as the period June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955;

(e) the Vietnam conflict which, for the purposes of this section, is defined as the period

August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975;

(f) the Grenada conflict which, for the purposes of this section, is defined as the period October 13 through December 31, 1983; or

(g) the Persian gulf conflict which, for the purposes of this section, is defined as the period August 2, 1990 through the date upon which the president of the United States or a competent military authority declares the conflict to be ended, but in no case earlier than July 1, 1992.

D. For the purposes of Subsection C of this section, a person who would otherwise be entitled to status as a veteran except for failure to have served in the armed forces continuously for ninety days is considered to have met that qualification if he served during the applicable period for less than ninety days and the reason for not having served for ninety days was a discharge brought about by service-connected disablement.

E. For the purposes of Paragraph (1) of Subsection C of this section, a person has been "honorably discharged" unless he received either a dishonorable discharge or a discharge for misconduct.

F. For the purposes of this section, a person whose civilian service has been recognized as service in the armed forces of the United States under federal law and who

has been issued a discharge certificate by a branch of the armed forces of the United States shall be considered to have served in the armed forces of the United States."

Section 2. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of this act apply to the 2001 and subsequent property tax years.=====