

# *Exemptions For Property Tax*



Assessor Fritz Kaegi celebrated the passage of SB1975, a bill in the Illinois General Assembly that creates automatic renewal options for the persons with disabilities and veterans with disabilities exemptions and expands income verification options for the low-income senior citizen exemption.

SB1975, which passed both the Illinois House and Senate with near-unanimous bi-partisan support, will amend the Property Tax Code so that a person who has been granted a Persons with Disabilities Exemption does not need to reapply for the exemption every year, if the applicant provides documentation that they have a qualifying disability, such as a Social Security benefits letter, letter from a medical provider, or Class 2 disability card issued by the State of Illinois.

Exemptions for those receiving the Veterans with Disabilities Exemption will auto-renew if the qualifying veteran is deemed permanently and totally disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

SB 1975 also provides for the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran to continue to receive the exemption earned and applied for by the veteran.

Since 2019, the Assessor's Office has auto-renewed approximately 280,000 senior exemptions each year, with approximately 45,000 seniors required to re-apply as part of an audit and verification process. The auto-renewal and audit process reduces costs and has significantly reduced the number of seniors who do not receive the exemptions they deserve.