

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to property tax exemptions for totally and
 3 permanently disabled persons; amending s. 196.101, F.S.;
 4 providing for certification of total and permanent
 5 disability due to blindness for purposes of such
 6 exemption; specifying a certification form; providing an
 7 effective date.

8
 9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10
 11 Section 1. Subsections (6) and (7) are added to section
 12 196.101, Florida Statutes, to read:

13 196.101 Exemption for totally and permanently disabled
 14 persons.--

15 (6) An optometrist licensed under chapter 463 may certify
 16 a person to be totally and permanently disabled as a result of
 17 legal blindness alone by issuing a certification in accordance
 18 with subsection (7). Certification of total and permanent
 19 disability due to legal blindness by a physician and an
 20 optometrist licensed in this state may be deemed to meet the
 21 requirements of subsection (3).

22 (7) The optometrist's certification shall read as follows:

23
 24 OPTOMETRIST'S CERTIFICATION OF
 25 TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY
 26
 27 I, (name of optometrist), an optometrist licensed pursuant to
 28 chapter 463, Florida Statutes, hereby certify that Mr. Mrs.

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29 Miss Ms. (name of totally and permanently disabled person),
 30 social security number _____, is totally and permanently
 31 disabled as of January 1, (year), due to legal blindness.

32
 33 It is my professional belief that the above-named condition
 34 renders Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms. (name of totally and
 35 permanently disabled person) totally and permanently disabled
 36 and that the foregoing statements are true, correct, and
 37 complete to the best of my knowledge and professional belief.

38
 39 Signature _____

40 Address (print) _____

41 Date _____

42 Florida Board of Optometry license number _____

43 Issued on _____

44
 45 NOTICE TO TAXPAYER: Each Florida resident applying for a total
 46 and permanent disability exemption must present to the county
 47 property appraiser, on or before March 1 of each year, a copy of
 48 this form or a letter from the United States Department of
 49 Veterans Affairs or its predecessor. Each form is to be
 50 completed by a licensed Florida optometrist.

51
 52 NOTICE TO TAXPAYER AND OPTOMETRIST: Section 196.131(2), Florida
 53 Statutes, provides that any person who knowingly and willfully
 54 gives false information for the purpose of claiming homestead
 55 exemption commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable
 56 by a term of imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or a fine not

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57 | exceeding \$5,000, or both.

58 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.