

# COLORADO STATE SENATE

MAJORITY OFFICE



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## Bipartisan bill ensures seniors and disabled veterans maintain property tax exemption



DENVER -- The Senate Finance Committee approved bipartisan legislation today ensuring seniors displaced by natural disasters and surviving spouses of disabled veterans maintain a property tax exemption.

Currently, seniors who are forced to move because of a natural disaster may lose their property tax exemption. In addition, spouses of disabled veterans may lose an exemption when their veteran-spouse dies.

HB 14-1373 changes that, allowing displaced seniors and surviving spouses of disabled veterans to retain the exemption.

“This bill focuses on two groups of people who deserve our help,” said Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, D-Arvada, sponsor of HB 14-1373. “Natural disasters can affect anybody at any time; and I believe we should support our troops and their families who have sacrificed so much for our country, especially when we can lend that support in such a common-sense way.”

Under HB 14-1373, the exemptions are as follows:

- Colorado seniors are eligible for a 50 percent property tax exemption on the first \$200,000 actual value of their home if they have lived in their home for at least 10 years, or if they had to move because of a natural disaster.
- Veterans with 100 percent disability and their spouses are eligible for a property tax exemption.

Next, HB 14-1373 must go to the Senate for a second-reading vote.

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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](http://www.RachelForColorado.com) or call her at 303-866-4840.

