

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 60 Section 3F to designate a place on the Town municipal property tax bills and/or motor vehicle excise bills or mail with such bills a separate form whereby taxpayers of town may voluntarily check off, donate and pledge an amount of money which shall increase the amount already due to establish and fund a municipal veterans' assistance fund which shall be under the supervision of the local veterans' agent, the board or officer in charge of the collection of the municipal charge, fee or fine or the town collector of taxes. Money in the fund shall be used to provide support for Boxford veterans and their dependents in need of immediate assistance with food, transportation, heat and oil expenses. The town's local veterans' agent shall: (i) establish an application process for Boxford veterans and their dependents to obtain assistance; (ii) establish standards for acceptable documentation of veteran status or dependent status; and (iii) establish financial eligibility criteria for determining need and amount of assistance for eligible applicants. The veterans' services department shall be responsible for reviewing each applicant and fairly applying the eligibility and level-of-need standards, or to take any other action thereon.

Sponsored and supported by the Select Board

MOTION: I move to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 60 Section 3F to designate a place on the Town municipal property tax bills and/or motor vehicle excise bills or mail with such bills a separate form whereby taxpayers of town may voluntarily check off, donate and pledge an amount of money to a municipal veterans' assistance fund, to be established, and administered as described in and in accordance with Article 7 of this warrant.

COMMENTS: Acceptance of MGL Chapter 60 Section 3F would allow the Town to designate a place on either tax bills, excise bills, or both, an option for residents to voluntarily donate or pledge a sum of money to be applied to a municipal veterans' assistance fund. This fund would be established by our District Director of Veterans Services to be used to provide immediate assistance to Boxford veterans in need. The District Director has requested acceptance of this law, and has identified immediate needs for utilizing this fund to help Boxford veterans. If this Warrant Article passes, a space would be added to the town's vehicle excise bills for accepting donations. The Town already has donation options on property tax bills for the Town of Boxford Scholarships Fund and the Town of Boxford Education Fund; there is currently not enough space on the property tax bill to add another donation opportunity. Passing the entirety of MGL Chapter 60 Section 3F provides the opportunity to also add the veterans' assistance fund to tax bills in the future.



Department of Veterans Services
North Andover - Boxford District
120 Main Street
North Andover, MA 01845



Joseph LeBlanc
District Director

Jillian Kemp
Administrative Assistant

To: Matt Coogan, Town Manager
From: Joseph Leblanc, VSO, District Director Veterans Services
Date: 02/22/2022
Re: Valor Act of 2019
Attach: 01

This memo is in regards to Massachusetts Chapter 60, an Act Relative to Housing, Operations, Military Service, and Enrichment. I am requesting consideration to move forward with the proposal as a warrant article for local adoption at Town Meeting. This would be the Veteran's Service Office's primary goal for this fiscal year.

“SECTION 12. Said chapter 60 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 3E the following section:- Section 3F. A city, town or district that accepts this section may designate a place on its municipal property tax bills or motor vehicle excise bills or mail with such bills a separate form whereby taxpayers of the city, town or district may voluntarily check off, donate and pledge an amount of money which shall increase the amount already due to establish and fund a municipal veterans assistance fund which shall be under the supervision of the local veterans agent, the board or officer in charge of the collection of the municipal charge, fee or fine or the town collector of taxes. Money in the fund shall be used to provide support for veterans and their dependents in need of immediate assistance with food, transportation, heat and oil expenses. The city, town or district's veterans' services department shall: (i) establish an application process for veterans and their dependents to obtain assistance; (ii) establish standards for acceptable documentation of veteran status or dependent status; and (iii) establish financial eligibility criteria for determining need and amount of assistance for eligible applicants. The veterans' services department shall be responsible for reviewing each applicant and fairly applying the eligibility and level-of-need standards”.

In closing, the Veterans Services Office would like you to recommend Chapter 60 be placed on the warrant for the 2022 Town Meeting to further opportunities for the Town to support the Veterans of Boxford.

Thank you for your consideration.