



BARRINGTON
RHODE ISLAND

Office of the Tax Assessor
Barrington Town Hall | 283 County Road | Barrington, RI 02606
(401) 247-1900, ext. 3 | mdimeo@barrington.ri.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Town Council
CC: Philip Hervey, Town Manager & Maryanne Crawford, Finance Director
From: Michelle DiMeo, Tax Assessor
Date: August 26, 2025
RE: Blind Exemption

This exemption is before you to correct the language pertaining to the Town of Barrington in RIGL 44-3-12.

The Blind exemption ordinance was last updated in 2018. The exemptions assessed value was increased from \$23,200 to \$35,500. However, when there was a drop in the tax rate in 2024 due to the revaluation, the residents receiving this exemption saw a decrease in the amount of their exemption. In 2023, the exemption was \$720.65 and in 2024 it dropped to \$523.63. Changing the language in the statute and updating the ordinance to offer a flat rate exemption will prevent these fluctuations in future tax years.

Attached is the detailed information of what other towns are offering throughout the state for the Blind Exemption.

2025 Visually Impaired Exemption

Town	Assessment	2024 Tax Rate	Exemption Amount	Flat Tax	
Barrington	35,500	14.75	523.63		
Bristol		13.82		194	
Burrillville	6000	14.98	89.88		
Central Falls		18.81		270	
Charlestown		5.78		500	
Coventry	6000	15.84	95.04		
Cranston	80,603	13.61	1,097.01		
Cumberland	50,754	11.95	606.51		
East Greenwich		14.73		861	
East Providence	43,840	15.33	672.07		
Exeter	6,000	11.49	68.94		
Foster	10,500	20.83	218.72		
Glocester		13.86		1,552.42	
Hopkinton	32,000	15.06	481.92		
Jamestown	15,000	7.17	107.55		
Johnston	29,840	15.30	456.55		
Lincoln	6,000	17.35	104.10		
Little Compton		5.08		250	
Middletown	71,100	8.66	615.73		
Narragansett		6.55		330	
New Shoreham	6,000	5.52	33.12		
Newport	39,800	8.22	327.16		
North Kingstown	30,000	14.34	430.20		
North Providence	10,000	16.61	166.10		
North Smithfield	12,000	14.77	177.24		
Pawtucket	107,380	12.34	1,325.07		
Portsmouth	44,340	13.18	584.40		
Providence		18.35		921	
Richmond	6,000	14.67	88.02		
Scituate		17.32		672.66	
Smithfield	22,500	14.44	324.90		
South Kingstown		11.05		426	
Tiverton		11.05		330	
Warren	53,271	14.44	769.23		
Warwick		14.47		622.8	
West Greenwich		16.00		300	
West Warwick		18.69		335	
Westerly	22,500	9.81	220.73		
Woonsocket		14.54		476.28	
Median	26,170		326.03	426.00	335.00
					(Combined Median)

TOWN OF BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND
A RESOLUTION ASKING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND THE TAX
EXEMPTION STATUTE FOR THE LEGALLY BLIND

WHEREAS, RIGL 44-3-12 provides a tax exemption for the legally blind; and

WHEREAS, this statute contains language regarding exemptions for the legally blind specifically in the Town of Barrington that is confusing and difficult to apply; and

WHEREAS, RIGL 44-3-12 provides a simple and easy to apply method for applying a legally blind tax credit in Charlestown and Jamestown; and


WHEREAS, the Town of Barrington would be better served by removing the confusing language related to the Town of Barrington from RIGL 44-3-12 and enacting similar language to the simple language applied in Charlestown and Jamestown.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

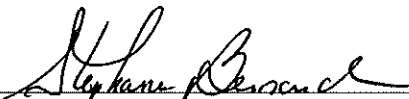
1. The Barrington Town Council hereby respectfully requests that attached legislation be enacted by the General Assembly to simplify the application of a visually impaired tax credit in the Town of Barrington; and
2. This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Approved at the Town Council meeting On September 8, 2025

ATTEST:



Braxton Cloutier,
Barrington Town Council President



Stephanie Bernardo, CMC
Town Clerk

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

AN AMENDMENT TO AN ACT
RELATING TO TAX EXEMPTION
FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Introduced by:

Date Introduced:

Referred to:

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 3 of Title 44 of the General Laws is hereby amended as follows:

§ 44-3-12. Visually impaired persons — Exemption.

(a) The property of each person who is legally blind according to federal standards as certified by a licensed physician or as certified by the Rhode Island services for the blind and visually impaired shall be exempted from taxation to the amount of six thousand dollars (\$6,000), except for the towns of:

Tiverton. Which exemption shall be provided by town ordinance as a tax credit of three hundred dollars (\$300) or greater; and

Warren. Which exemption shall be up to forty thousand eight hundred ninety-five dollars (\$40,895); and

1 Barrington.—Which exemption shall be sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) for-
2 real property. The exemption shall apply to the property in the municipality where
3 the person resides, and if there is not sufficient property to exhaust the exemption,
4 the person may proclaim the balance in any city or town where he or she may own
5 property; except for the town of *Cumberland*, which exemption shall be up to
6 forty-seven thousand five hundred forty-four dollars (\$47,544); and

7 Westerly. Which may provide, by ordinance, an exemption on the total value of
8 real and personal property not to exceed twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$29,000).

9 The city or town council of any city or town may, by ordinance, increase the
10 exemption within the city or town to an amount not to exceed twenty-two
11 thousand five hundred dollars (\$22,500). The exemption shall not be allowed in
12 favor of any person who is not a legal resident of the state, or unless the person
13 entitled to the exemption shall have presented to the assessors, on or before the
14 last day on which sworn statements may be filed with the assessors for the year
15 for which exemption is claimed, due evidence that he or she is so entitled, which
16 evidence shall stand so long as his or her legal residence remains unchanged. The
17 exemption provided for in this section, to the extent that it shall apply to any city
18 or town, shall be applied in full to the total value of the person's real and tangible
19 personal property located in the city or town and shall be applied to intangible
20 personal property only to the extent that there is not sufficient real property or
21 tangible personal property to exhaust the exemption. This exemption shall be in
22 addition to any other exemption provided by law except as provided in § 44-3-25.

1 West Warwick. Which exemption shall be equal to three hundred thirty-five
2 dollars (\$335).

3 (b) In each city or town that has not increased the exemption provided by subsection

4 (a) above the minimum of six thousand dollars (\$6,000), except for the town of:

5 ~~Barrington. Which exemption shall be sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) for real~~
6 ~~property. The exemption shall increase automatically each year by the same~~
7 ~~percentage as the percentage increase in the total amount of taxes levied by the city or~~
8 ~~town. The automatic increase shall not apply to cities or towns that have increased the~~
9 ~~exemption provided by subsection (a) above the minimum of six thousand dollars~~
10 ~~(\$6,000), except for the town of:~~

11 ~~Barrington. Which exemption shall be sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) for real~~
12 ~~property. If the application of the automatic increase to an exemption of six thousand~~
13 ~~dollars (\$6,000) on a continuous basis from December 31, 1987, to any subsequent~~
14 ~~assessment date would result in a higher exemption than the exemption enacted by the~~
15 ~~city or town council, then the amount provided by the automatic increase applies.~~

16 (c) The town of Charlestown may, by ordinance, provide a tax dollar credit reduction
17 for such legally blind person.

18 (d) The town of Jamestown may, by ordinance, provide a tax dollar credit reduction
19 on real property for such legally blind person(s).

20 (e) The town of Barrington may, by ordinance, provide a tax dollar credit reduction
21 on real property for such legally blind person(s).

22 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

EXPLANATION

BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

- 1 This amendment will permit the Town of Barrington to grant tax credits in an amount it
- 2 determines by ordinance to the legally blind.
- 3 This amendment would take effect immediately upon passage.