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Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Reps. Arrington's & Keen's Bill to Expedite the Eligibility Process for Certain Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses Regarding Homestead Tax Exemptions Passes Florida House of Representatives
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Representative Arrington's and Representative Keen's Bill to Expedite the Eligibility Process for Certain Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses Regarding Homestead Tax Exemptions Passes Florida House of Representatives

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Representative Kristen Arrington's (D- Kissimmee) legislation to expedite the homestead tax exemption process for 100-percent fully disabled veterans or their surviving spouses passed the Florida House of Representatives today. [HB 1161](#) requires the Department of Revenue to establish an eligibility verification procedure in coordination with property appraisers.

“This legislation will bring ease to fully disabled veterans or their surviving spouses. Buying a home is incredibly stressful and I am excited that we are able to deliver the opportunity for more disabled veterans to get a home of their own without such a heavy financial burden. This simple administrative change will greatly benefit the District 46 community and the state as a whole. I am so grateful to have worked on this legislation with **Senator Tina Polsky (D-Boca Raton)** and **Representative Tom Keen (D-Orlando)**. Senator Polsky sponsored the Senate version of the bill ([CS/CS/SB 172](#)) and has been an incredible partner in this legislative process. Representative Keen has graciously signed on as a Prime Cosponsor and in doing so, he has offered fantastic insight as a Navy veteran and has been a great help in moving this bill through the committee process,” said **Representative Arrington**.

“As a Veteran I was honored to join Representative Arrington as a sponsor of this bill which helps disabled veterans more easily qualify for a mortgage and become a homeowner,” said **Representative Keen**.

The legislation proposes an administrative timing change that would allow for a qualified veteran or a surviving spouse to have tentative verification of eligibility, through a county property appraiser, before closing so that mortgage underwriters do not have to count these taxes against them when qualifying. This bill would greatly

benefit our deserving veterans and surviving spouses at zero cost to the state.

HB 1161 has passed the House floor unanimously and will head to the Senate floor for the final passage vote.

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