

DEFINITION OF MASSACHUSETTS VETERAN
M.G.L. c. 4, sec. 7, cl. 43rd as amended by the Acts of 2004
Effective August 30, 2004

ERA of Service	DATES	Requirement for Veteran Status
WWI	6-Apr-1917 11-Nov-1918	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day of which is during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PEACETIME	12-Nov-1918 15-Sep-1940	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
WWII	16-Sep-1940 31-Dec-1946	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day of which is during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PEACETIME	1-Jan-1947 24-Jun-1950	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
KOREA	25-Jun-1950 31-Jan-1955	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day of which is during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
VIETNAM I	1-Feb-1955 4-Aug-1964	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
VIETNAM II	5-Aug-1964 7-May-1975	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day of which is during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PEACETIME	8-May-1975 1-Aug-1990	180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
Lebanon Campaign*	25-Aug-1982 (to be determined later)	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day of which is during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
Grenada Campaign *	25-Oct-1983 15-Dec-1983	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day of which is during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
Panama Campaign *	20-Dec-1989 31-Jan-1990	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day of which is during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PERSIAN GULF	2-Aug-1990 (to be determined later)	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day of which is during "wartime" and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.

* Naval and Marine DD214 must indicate Expeditionary Medal. All DD214's must specify campaign: Lebanon, Granada, or Panama.

- For **GUARD MEMBERS** to qualify they must have 180 days and have been activated under Title 10 of the U.S. Code OR- Members who were activated under Title 10 or Title 32 of the U.S. Code or Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 33, sections 38, 40, and 41 must have 90 days, at least one of which was during wartime, per the above chart.
 - For **RESERVISTS** to qualify, they must have been called to regular active duty, at which point their eligibility can be determined by the above chart.
- Training Duty Exception:** Active duty service in the armed forces shall not include active duty for training in the Army or Air National Guard or active duty for training as a Reservist in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Minimum Service Exception (for Death or Disability)

It is not necessary that an applicant have completed the minimum service for wartime or peacetime campaign if he/she served some time in the campaign and was awarded the Purple Heart, or suffered a service-connected disability, or died in the service under honorable conditions.

2004 LEGISLATION

CHAPTER 116 – PEACETIME VETERANS

Effective August 26, 2004

Chapter 116 expands the definition of "veteran" in G.L. c. 4 §7 by adding following categories of persons to definition:

- Member of Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard who serve 180 days, even if no wartime service.
- Member of Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard with service connected disability or death under conditions other than dishonorable, even if less than 180 days.
- Full-time National Guardsmen who serve in particular capacity for 90 days with at least 1 day of wartime service.
- Merchant Marines who served in World War II with honorable discharges from Army, Navy or Coast Guard.

Effective for Fiscal Year 2006, the change in definition will affect eligibility for property tax exemptions because G.L. Ch. 59 §5 Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C and 22E have also been amended to delete the requirement of wartime service as an express condition of eligibility. Ch. 352 §§24 and 25 of the Acts of 2004 (*effective September 17, 2004*). The reason the change does not apply until FY06 is that both Ch. 116 and Ch. 352 were effective after July 1, 2004, the qualification date for FY05 exemptions. See **Bulletin 2004-17B (September)**.

The changed definition does not affect eligibility for motor vehicle excise exemptions, however. Excise exemptions are expressly limited to veterans of World War I, World War II, Korean War and Viet Nam War. G.L. Ch. 60A §1.