

Qualifications for Massachusetts Veteran Registration Plate

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. NOTE: A Merchant Marine is eligible if he/she has 90 days active duty service, one day of which is between 7-Dec-1941 through 31-Dec-1946
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 DD-214 must indicate Expeditionary Medal. All DD-214s must specify campaign: Lebanon, Granada, or Panama.

- For **NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS** to qualify, they must have 180 days of regular active duty service 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 National Guard or Air National Guard or active duty for training as a Reservist in the armed forces of the United States.

Minimum Service Exception (for 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.

Note: Armed Forces of the U.S. includes the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

Dates of service are listed on discharge papers, other separation papers, or the DD-214.

Based upon amendments made to M.G.L. c. 4, Section 7, Clause 43rd, by Chapter 116 of the Acts of 2004, effective August 30, 2004, for the purpose of obtaining or retaining a "Veteran" registration plate, a "Veteran" shall mean:

any person,

- (a) whose last discharge or release from his or her wartime service was under honorable conditions **and who**
- (b) served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force of the United States, or on full time National Guard duty under Titles 10 or 32 of the United States Code or under sections 38, 40 or 41 of chapter 33 for not less than 90 days active service,¹ at least 1 day of which was for wartime service; **or**
- (c) a member of the American Merchant Marine who served in armed conflict between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946, and who has received honorable discharges from the United States Coast Guard, Army, or Navy; **or**
- (d) any person whose last discharge from active service was under honorable conditions, **and who**
- (e) served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force of the United States for not less than 180 days active service;²

¹ Any person who served in wartime and was awarded a service-connected disability or a Purple Heart shall be deemed to be a veteran even if he or she failed to complete 90 days of active service.

² Any person who served during a period when at least 180 days of regular active duty service is required to attain "Veteran" status and who has been awarded a service-connected disability, shall be deemed to be a Veteran even if he or she failed to complete 180 days of active service.