

DEFINITION OF MASSACHUSETTS VETERAN
M.G.L. c. 4, sec. 7, cl. 43rd as amended by the Acts of 2005, ch. 130

ERA of Service		DATES	Requirement for Veteran Status
WWI		6-Apr-1917 11-Nov-1918	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day 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 (Merchant Marine: 7-Dec-1941 through 31-Dec-1946)		16-Sep-1940 25-Jul-1947	90 days of active duty service, one (1) day during “wartime” and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
PEACETIME		26-Jul-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 during “wartime” and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.
	Korean Defense Service Medal	28-Jul-1954 (to be determined later)	90 days of active duty service, last discharge under honorable conditions and the Korean Defense Service Medal
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 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 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 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 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 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 Active Service Exception (Purple Heart or Service-Connected Disability or Death)

Wartime Service

If his or her last discharge or release from wartime service was under honorable conditions, then a person who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States under Title 10 of the United States Code during 1 day of wartime service or a person on full time Massachusetts National Guard duty under Title 32 of the United States Code during at least 1 day of wartime service or a person on full time Massachusetts National Guard duty under [sections 38, 40 and 41 of chapter 33](#) of the general laws during at least 1 day of wartime service, who sustained a service-connected disability during such wartime service or was awarded the Purple Heart during such wartime service or who died during such wartime service under conditions other than dishonorable, is excused from completing the 90-day active service requirement during such wartime service.

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Peacetime

If his or her last discharge or release from active service was under honorable conditions, then a person who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States under Title 10 of the United States Code during peacetime, who sustained a service-connected disability while on active duty during peacetime or who died on active duty during peacetime under conditions other than dishonorable, is excused from completing the 180-day active service requirement during peacetime.