

Summary of National Guard and Veterans Legislation from Prior Bienniums

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2013-2014:

Act 53 (H.536)

- Created annual sexual assault and harassment reporting requirement for National Guard.
- Made all veterans eligible for the Green Mountain Passport (lifetime pass for free day-use of Vermont State Parks).

Act 57 (S.150)

- Permits driver's licenses and nondriver ID cards to have a "veteran" designation.

Act 116 (H.589)

- Reduced from 100% to 60% that a Vermont veteran must have to qualify for a free hunting, fishing, or combination license.

Act 124 (S.177)

- Established a process for the National Guard to impose nonjudicial discipline for minor military offenses as an alternative to courts martial.

Act 177 (H.681)

- Requires most professional regulatory entities in the State to grant to certain veterans, military service members, and military spouses an expedited temporary license by endorsement to practice an occupation or profession for a limited period of time pending permanent licensure based on the applicant's licensure in another State or, in the case of EMS providers, based on national certification.
- Requires professional regulatory entities to give veterans or service members credit for their relevant military experience, training, and education when considering their qualifications for licensure.
- Provides that veterans and service members will not be required to pay a penalty for a license renewal that is late as a result of deployment.
- Provides veterans or service members that are unable to meet certain requirements for renewal due to deployment to have a reasonable amount of time to meet those requirements following license renewal.
- Allows an EMS provider whose license lapsed while he or she was deployed to return to his or her position at the same rate of compensation upon renewal of his or her license.

2015-2016

Act 61 (H.5)

- Sets aside five moose permits for veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Act 121 (H.805)

- Clarifies that military leave law applies to members of the Vermont National Guard or the National Guard of another state.
- Allows a National Guard member to continue his or her civilian health insurance while he or she is on state active duty.
- Clarifies a National Guard member's right to bring a civil action if he or she is harmed by a violation of the subchapter related to employment rights for National Guard members.

2017-2018

Act 119 (H.906)

- Creates various mechanisms to facilitate professional licensing for service members and veterans.
 - Requires issuance of a journeyman electrician's license without examination to a service member or veteran who served as a 12R Electrician or equivalent and meets certain other requirements;
 - Requires Electricians Licensing Board to recognize a service member or veteran's experience as a 12R Electrician or equivalent when considering his or her application for a master electrician's license;
 - Requires issuance of a journeyman plumber's license without examination to a service member or veteran who served as a 12K Plumber or equivalent and meets certain other requirements;
 - Requires issuance of a license to practice as a registered nurse to a service member or veteran who served as a 66H Nurse or equivalent and meets certain other requirements;
 - Requires issuance of a license to practice as a nursing assistant to a service member or veteran who served as a 68W Combat Medic Specialist or equivalent and meets certain other requirements;
 - Waives examination requirement in relation to certification as an inspection mechanic for a service member or veteran who served as a 91B Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic and meets certain other requirements; and
 - Provides that a service member or veteran who served as a 92G Culinary Specialist and meets certain other requirements will be deemed to meet certain food safety requirements necessary to obtain a food establishment license from the Dept. of Health.

Act 122 (H.693)

- Designates the Honor and Remember Flag as the flag to honor Vermonters who died during or as the result of serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Act 206 (S.272)

- Updated provisions related to fee and tax exemptions for Veterans who receive financial assistance from the VA related to the acquisition of a motor vehicle.

2018 Special Session

Act 11 (H.16)

- Established Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefits Program to replace the National Guard Education Assistance Program.