



RECREATION

Free Fishing Licenses

Disabled veterans are eligible for a free fishing license if they meet certain criteria.

They must be a Pennsylvania resident who is disabled as the result of an armed conflict or war injury consisting of a loss of, or loss of use of one or more limbs, total blindness or certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration as being 100 percent disabled.

Eligible veterans can obtain more information about the free fishing licenses at the county treasurer's office or the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106.

Applicants should have their VA certification, discharge papers and proof of wartime service.

Physicians certificate of disability is not acceptable.

Free Hunting Licenses

Disabled veterans are eligible for a free hunting license if they meet certain criteria.

They must be a Pennsylvania resident who is disabled as the result of an armed conflict or war injury consisting of a loss of, or loss of use of one or more limbs or certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration as being 100 percent disabled.

Eligible veterans can obtain more information about the free hunting license at the county treasurer's office and the Pennsylvania Game Commission, 2001 Elmer-ton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110. Applicants should have their physicians certificate, discharge papers and proof of wartime service.

Guaranteed Antlerless Deer License

Disabled veterans who are Pennsylvania residents can obtain an antlerless deer license even if a county has allocated all of its licenses.

The fee for the license is the same as the fee for a regular or military antlerless deer license. The difference here is that disabled veterans are guaranteed a license.

County Veterans Affairs

For information on all benefits that may be due you or your dependents and to obtain current local fees and eligibility requirements, contact the county Veterans Affairs Office at the following address and telephone number:

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE
Division of Veteran Services
Governor Wolf Building
45 N. Second Street
Easton, PA 18042
Phone: (610) 559-3199



Compliments of Representative Babette Josephs

Pennsylvania House of Representatives – 182nd District

District Office

1528 Walnut Street, Suite 1901
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102
t. 215.893.1515
f. 215.560.5816

e. bjosephs@pahouse.net
www.babette.org

Capitol Office

House Box 202020
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
t. 717.787.8529
f. 717.787.5066

veterans

A guide to state benefits

for
Pennsylvania
veterans and
their families.



veterans state benefits

EMPLOYMENT

Civil Service Preference

Honorably discharged veterans receiving a passing score on a Pennsylvania Civil Service examination are given an additional 10 points on initial appointment only. Widows of veterans and spouses of disabled service-connected veterans also are extended the same preferential rating. *For information, contact the Pennsylvania Civil Service Commission, P.O. Box 569, Harrisburg, PA 17108 or call (717) 787-6039.*

Veterans Hiring

Veterans employment representatives are located throughout the state. The representatives will help veterans with job counseling and placement information. *For information, contact your local Job Service Office.*

State Retirement

Honorably discharged veterans employed by the state for three years or more may buy back their time spent in the U.S. Armed Forces (not to exceed five years) for retirement purposes. *For information, contact your personnel department or the State Employees' Retirement System at (800) 633-5461. SERS will automatically connect you to the retirement counseling center in your county.*

Veterans Emergency Assistance

Veterans, their widows, infants or dependents are provided up to three months of temporary, emergency financial assistance. The aid must be used for food, clothing, fuel or shelter. To be eligible, honorably discharged veterans must have served in the U.S. Armed Forces during established war service dates or during hostile fire or terrorist attack in peacetime as determined by the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Upon the recent death of a veteran, the veteran's surviving spouse, children or parents may be eligible for assistance if the deceased veteran qualified prior to death and if the survivors meet dependent eligibility requirements.

For information, call (800) 54-PA-VET.

Real Estate Tax Exemption

Honorably discharged veterans who are residents of Pennsylvania and are certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as being 100 percent disabled from a wartime service are eligible for exemption from real estate taxes on a principal dwelling. The State Veterans Commission also must determine the need for the exemption. If the veteran dies, the exemption can pass onto the surviving spouse if he or she has not remarried.

For information, call (800) 54-PA-VET.

EDUCATION

Educational Gratuity

Payments of educational gratuities are given to children of honorably discharged veterans. To be eligible, veterans must be certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having wartime service-connected disabilities rated as totally or permanently disabling. Children of veterans who died in service during a war or armed conflict also are eligible. Children must be between 16 and 23, a resident of Pennsylvania for a period of five years immediately preceding the application date and attending a Pennsylvania school to be entitled to the gratuity.

For information, call (800) 54-PA-VET.

Grants for Veterans and POW/MIA Dependents

Qualified veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible for state grants while they are full-time undergraduate students. Veterans must comply with Pennsylvania's residency requirements and other requirements of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

Dependent children of members or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served on active duty after Jan. 31, 1955, who are or have been listed as missing in action or prisoners of war also are eligible for state grants.

For information, call PHEAA (800) 692-7435.

Scotland School for Veterans' Children – To be eligible for admission to Scotland School for Veterans' Children, the following requirements must be met:

- the natural, or adoptive stepparent *(see below) of the child must be an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces;
- parents of the child must have resided in the state for three continuous years prior to application; and
- the children must be 6 to 15.

For information, contact the Scotland School for Veterans' Children, Scotland, PA 17201 or call (717) 264-7187, ext. 699.

*grandparent, aunt, uncle or individual holding legal guardianship.

Blind Veterans Pension

Honorably discharged veterans are eligible for a Blind Veterans Pension of \$150 a month. The veteran must have been a resident of Pennsylvania at the time of entering the Armed Forces and while performing service duties suffered an injury or incurred a disease which resulted in blindness. The blindness described as having vision at 3/60 or 10/200 or less.

For information, call (800) 54-PA-VET.

Paralyzed Veterans Pension

Honorably discharged veterans are eligible for a Paralyzed Veterans Pension of \$150 a month. The veteran must have been a resident of Pennsylvania at the time of entering the armed forces. Veterans qualify if they are residents of the state now and if they suffered an injury or disease resulting in the loss of use of two or more extremities during a war conflict or hostilities during peacetime.

For information, call (800) 54-PA-VET.

Birth and Death Records

Certified copies of birth and death certificates are issued to veterans and their dependents without cost by the Division of Vital Records, P.O. Box 1528, 101 S. Mercer St., New Castle, PA 16103.

For information, call (724) 656-3100.

TRANSPORTATION

Vehicle Registration for Disabled and Severely Disabled Veterans – Disabled and severely disabled veterans are eligible for special license plates if they are certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as being disabled as the result of a service injury. *For information, call (800) 932-4600.*

Purple Heart Recipients or Ex-Prisoner of War Vehicle Registration – Any former POW or Purple Heart recipient may apply for this special red, white and blue license plate. Veterans will need certification of imprisonment from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *For information, call (800) 932-4600.*

Parking Placard for Disabled Veterans

– Disabled veterans may receive free parking placards for their vehicles which would allow them to park in spaces designated for handicapped persons. To be eligible for a parking placard, veterans must have a letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs explaining the nature and extent of their disability. *For information, call (800) 932-4600.*