

SB 448-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

01/29/2026 0061s  
03/26/2026 1209s

2026 SESSION

26-2026  
06/08

SENATE BILL **448-FN**

AN ACT modifying the definition of veteran.

SPONSORS: Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Long, Dist 20; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. McGough, Dist 11; Sen. McConkey, Dist 3; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Rochefort, Dist 1; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Abbas, Dist 22; Rep. Harvey-Bolia, Belk. 3; Rep. See, Merr. 26; Rep. Sellers, Graf. 10; Rep. Thibault, Merr. 25

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes the definition of veteran and expands eligibility for state benefits and programs that depend on veteran status, ensuring that individuals discharged under honorable conditions, including those with a general discharge under honorable conditions, are not excluded from eligibility.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

AN ACT modifying the definition of veteran.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 Statutory Construction; Definition of Veteran. Amend RSA 21:50, I(a)(2)(A) to read as follows:

2 (A) ~~[An honorable discharge]~~ **Any discharge under honorable conditions**; or

3 2 New Hampshire Veterans' Home; Command and Employees. Amend RSA 119:6 to read as  
4 follows:

5 119:6 Commandant and Employees. The board shall appoint, or may remove, for just cause, a  
6 commandant of the home. ~~[Honorably discharged veterans as defined in RSA 119:1]~~ **A veteran as**  
7 **defined by RSA 21:50** shall have preference for employment in the home if qualified by the New  
8 Hampshire division of personnel.

9 3 Preference of Resident Laborers and Veterans; Employment of Veterans. Amend RSA 283:4, I  
10 to read as follows:

11 I. In public employment of clerks, office help, mechanics, laborers, inspectors, supervisors,  
12 foremen, janitors, peace officers, and relief employees in the construction of public works, public  
13 projects and in the conduct of city, town or district departments by a county, city, town, or district, or  
14 by persons contracting therewith for such construction, carrying out of relief projects and in the  
15 conduct of city, town, or district departments, preference shall be given to citizens of the state who  
16 have served in the armed forces of the United States, for not less than 90 days, in times of war, and  
17 ~~[have been discharged honorably therefrom, or released from active duty therein]~~ **meet the**  
18 **definition of "veteran" in RSA 21:50**, if equally qualified for said employment and if registered in  
19 accordance with the provisions of RSA 283:7. Where such employment is obtained from relief rolls or  
20 for persons in need, in cases of equal or greater need preference shall be given to such veterans.

21 4 Property Taxes; Certain Disabled Veterans. Amend the introductory paragraph in RSA 72:36-  
22 a to read as follows:

23 72:36-a Certain Disabled Veterans. Any person, who is ~~[discharged from military service of the~~  
24 ~~United States under conditions other than dishonorable]~~ **a veteran as defined by RSA 21:50**, or an  
25 officer who is honorably separated from military service, who owns a specially adapted homestead  
26 which has been acquired with the assistance of the Veterans Administration or which has been  
27 acquired using proceeds from the sale of any previous homestead which was acquired with the  
28 assistance of the Veterans Administration, the person or person's surviving spouse, shall be exempt  
29 from all taxation on said homestead, provided that:

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1       5 Reemployment of Veterans; Veterans Guaranteed Reemployment. Amend RSA 97:1 to read as  
2 follows:

3       97:1 Veterans Guaranteed Reemployment. Each county, town, city, precinct, school board or  
4 other political subdivision of the state shall reemploy a veteran of any branch of the military service  
5 of the United States who has been placed on inactive status or [~~been given a discharge other than~~  
6 ~~dishonorable~~] **is a veteran as defined by RSA 21:50** and who, within 90 days after being so made  
7 inactive or discharged, in writing, notifies the treasurer or other fiscal agent of such political  
8 subdivision that he **or she** desires to be reinstated in the position he **or she** held with such political  
9 subdivision at the time he **or she** entered said military service.

10       6 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Amend RSA 110-D:3,  
11 XX to read as follows:

12       XX. "Veteran" [~~means a person who served in the uniformed services and who was~~  
13 ~~discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable~~] **shall have the same**  
14 **meaning as in RSA 21:50.**

15       7 Honorable Discharge; References Amended. Amend the following RSAs by replacing  
16 "honorable discharge" or "an honorable discharge" with "a discharge under honorable conditions  
17 pursuant to RSA 21:50": RSA 115-A:16; 115-A:29, I-II; 115-B:1, II(a); 115-B:1, II(c); 165:5; 175:1,  
18 XXII; 176:10; 261:86, I(d); 261:87-b, I; 275-G:1, II; 466:8, I; and 651-A:13.

19       8 Honorably Discharged; References Amended. Amend the following RSAs by replacing  
20 "honorably discharged" with "discharged under honorable conditions pursuant to RSA 21:50": RSA  
21 72:28, IV(a); 72:28-b, IV; 72:35, I; 99-F:2, VI(a)(1)-(3); 100-A:4, VI(a)(2); 119:1, I; 119:2, II; 261:86,  
22 I(c)-(e); 261:141, VIII(c); 261:157-a; and 291:3.

23       9 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

LBA  
26-2026  
04/06/2026

**SB 448-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE (AMENDMENT #2026-1209s)**

AN ACT            modifying the definition of veteran.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The bill standardizes New Hampshire law by broadening and aligning the definition of “veteran” to include individuals discharged under honorable conditions and applying that definition consistently across statutes governing employment, benefits, and other veteran-related provisions. This bill is not expected to have an impact on state, county, and local revenue or expenditures.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services