

SB 448-FN - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

01/29/2026 0061s
03/26/2026 1209s
23Apr2026... 1444h
06/04/2026 2018EBA

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. Avar, 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

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.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 New Hampshire Veterans' Home; Command and Employees. Amend RSA 119:6 to read as
2 follows:

3 119:6 Commandant and Employees. The board shall appoint, or may remove, for just cause, a
4 commandant of the home. [~~Honorably discharged veterans as defined in RSA 119:1~~] **A veteran as**
5 **defined by RSA 21:50** shall have preference for employment in the home if qualified by the New
6 Hampshire division of personnel.

7 2 Preference of Resident Laborers and Veterans; Employment of Veterans. Amend RSA 283:4, I
8 to read as follows:

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

19 3 Property Taxes; Certain Disabled Veterans. Amend the introductory paragraph in RSA 72:36-
20 a to read as follows:

21 72:36-a Certain Disabled Veterans. Any person, who is [~~discharged from military service of the~~
22 ~~United States and who meets the~~] **a** veteran [~~eligibility criteria established~~] **as defined** by RSA
23 21:50, and who owns a home which has been specially adapted by the Veterans Administration
24 through an approved Special Adapted Housing (SAH) or Special Home Adaptation (SHA) grant or
25 owns a home that has been specially adapted and has been acquired using proceeds from the sale of
26 such an SAH or SHA home, the person or person's surviving spouse, as defined in RSA 72:29, V,
27 shall be exempt from all taxation on said homestead, provided that:

28 4 Reemployment of Veterans; Veterans Guaranteed Reemployment. Amend RSA 97:1 to read as
29 follows:

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- Page 2 -

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

8 5 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Amend RSA 110-D:3,
9 XX to read as follows:

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

13 6 Honorable Discharge; References Amended. Amend the following RSAs by replacing
14 "honorable discharge" or "an honorable discharge" with "discharge of a character outlined in RSA
15 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, XXII; 176:10; 261:86,
16 I(d); 275-G:1, II; 466:8, I; and 651-A:13.

17 7 Honorably Discharged; References Amended. Amend the following RSAs by replacing
18 "honorably discharged" with "discharge of a character outlined in RSA 21:50": RSA 72:28, IV(a);
19 Amend section 7 of the bill by replacing line 3 with the following:
20 72:28-b, IV; 72:35, I; 99-F:2, VI(a)(1)-(3); 100-A:4, VI(a)(1); 119:1, I; 119:2, II; 261:86, I(c)-(e); 261:141,
21 VIII(c); 261:157-a; and 291:3.

22 8 Applicability. The change in terminology made under sections 6 and 7 of this act shall apply
23 to municipal rules in effect on the effective date of this act without amendment or readoption by the
24 municipality.

25 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