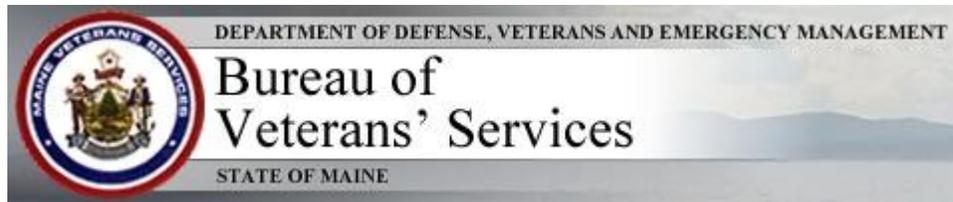


Maine State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts

July 2017



The state of Maine provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Housing Benefits
- Financial Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Recreation Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Veteran Housing Programs

Maine Veterans' Homes

Maine has six veterans' homes located in Augusta, Bangor, Caribou, Machias, Scarborough, and South Paris. Honorably discharged veterans who served at least one (1) day of active duty other than for training (both wartime & peacetime); spouses, widows, and widowers of qualified veterans; and gold star parents (a parent whose son or daughter died from wounds received in combat) can come to a Maine Veterans' Home.

To qualify for admission, the applicant must be an honorably discharged veteran who served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces for no less than 180 days. Eligible veterans must either be residents of Maine at the time of application, or have resided in Maine at the time of entry into the United States Armed Forces. Spouses, widows, widowers, and gold star parents of eligible veterans may also be eligible for admission. Gold star parents are parents of a son or a daughter killed in the line of duty. Applications are available for download at www.maineveteranshomes.org/images/pdf/admissionsapp.pdf For contact and facility information click on the below home name:

AUGUSTA 1-888-684-4664



BANGOR 1-888-684-4665



CARIBOU 1-888-684-4667



MACHIAS 1-877-866-4669



SCARBOROUGH 1-888-684-4666



SOUTH PARIS 1-888-684-4668



Financial Assistance Benefits

Veterans Small Business Loan Program

The Finance Authority of Maine may provide special loan insurance to veterans and wartime veterans for veteran-owned small businesses. The Authority does not make small business loans. Veterans interested in applying for loan insurance must apply to the Finance Authority of Maine and provide a copy of their DD214 (military discharge document). Information on loan insurance may be obtained by contacting the Finance Authority of Maine as follows:

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE
PO BOX 949
AUGUSTA, ME 04330
Tel.: 207-623-3263 or 800-228-3734
Website address: <http://www.famemaine.com>

Assistance in obtaining copies of DD 214s may be obtained by contacting the Bureau of Maine Veterans Services at 207-430-6035 or by clicking on www.maine.gov/dvem/bvs/military_discharges.htm to download an application to complete and mailing it to the address shown on the form.

Property Tax Exemption

A Veteran who served during a recognized war period and is 62 years or older; or, is receiving 100% disability as a Veteran; or, became 100% disabled while serving, is eligible for a \$6,000 property tax exemption. Un-remarried surviving spouses are also eligible.

This program is administered by the Maine Revenue Services. They have provided a Property Tax Bulletin at <http://www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/pubs/bull7.pdf> which outlines the complex provisions relating to property tax exemption of veterans. This document may also be accessed by visiting the website of Maine Revenue Services at <http://www.maine.gov/revenue>.

Particular notice should be given to the different classifications of exemption so that the municipality may claim the appropriate reimbursement from the State for taxes lost by reason of such exemption. Prior to April 1, 1978, municipalities were not reimbursed for property taxes lost due to the granting of veterans exemptions. In 1978, the Constitution was amended to reimburse municipalities not less than 50% of property tax revenue loss because of statutory property tax exemptions enacted after April 1, 1978.

Income Tax

Military retirement is tax-free.

Veterans Small Business Loan Program

The Finance Authority of Maine may provide special loan insurance to veterans and wartime veterans for veteran-owned small businesses. The Authority does not make small business loans.

Maine Military Family Relief Fund

The Maine Military Family Relief Fund provides emergency assistance to qualified military members and dependents.

Employment Benefits

State Employment

Preference points shall be added to the earned qualifying rating in examinations, provided that a passing grade is attained, of Veterans applying for positions in the state service in accordance with the following, provided that they have not been previously employed in the classified service after obtaining preference points. A Veteran who is receiving a disability pension shall be entitled to preference points under this subsection, notwithstanding his previous employment in the classified service after obtaining preference points.

- A Veteran who served on active duty in any of the Armed Forces for at least 90 days consecutively and who was honorably separated or their un-remarried surviving spouse will be given a 5 point preference.
- A Veteran who served on active duty in any of the Armed Forces for at least 90 consecutive days, at any time, was honorably separated, and who has a service-connected disability of at least 10% will be given 10 point preference.

- The Spouse of a disabled veteran is entitled to a 10 point preference in lieu of the veteran when the veteran's disability disqualifies him or her for appointment in the classified service along the general lines of his or her usual occupation.
- The surviving spouse, who has never remarried, of a veteran who lost his or her life under honorable conditions while serving on active duty, or who died as the result of service-connected disability will be given a 10 point preference.
- The natural parent of a veteran who died in the line of duty are given a 10 point preference.

Education Benefits

Veterans Dependents Education Benefits Program

This benefit applies to dependents of Maine veterans who entered the service from Maine or has been a resident for 5 years immediately preceding application for aid and, if living, continues to reside in Maine throughout the duration of benefits administered under the educational benefits program and who:

- Has a 100% total permanent disability resulting from service-connected disability as a result of service;
- Was killed in Action;
- Died from a service-connected disability as a result of service;
- At the time of death was totally and permanently disabled due to a service-connected disability, but whose death was not related to the service-connected disability; or
- Is a member of the Armed Forces on active duty who has been listed for more than 90 days as missing in action, captured or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power.

The continuous residency requirement of this program does not apply to a person who is receiving educational benefits under this chapter on or before January 1, 2006.

NOTE: If a veteran was a resident of Maine prior to his/her death for less than five years, and application is received subsequently after the five year period from the date he/she last established residency, the applicant will be considered eligible and the deceased veteran will have been considered to have met eligibility requirements for purposes of this benefit.

Spouses of veterans who are attending state-supported post secondary vocational schools or institutions of collegiate grade must be admitted free of tuition including mandatory fees and lab fees for associate's, bachelor's and master's degree programs. Room and board may not be waived. Spouses have 10 years from the date of first entrance to complete the program.

Children of veterans who are attending state supported postsecondary vocational schools or institutions of collegiate grade must be admitted free of tuition including mandatory fees and lab fees for associate's and bachelor's programs. The tuition waiver provided under this paragraph

may be reduced by an amount necessary to ensure that the value of this waiver, combined with all other grants and benefits received by the student, does not exceed the total cost of education. Room and board may not be waived.

A child of a veteran has 6 academic years from the date of first entrance to complete 8 semesters. The director may waive the limit of 6 consecutive academic years when the Recipient's education has been interrupted by severe medical disability or illness making continued attendance impossible

Recreation Benefits

Hunting & Fishing Licenses for Disabled Veterans

A disabled veteran who has a service connected disability evaluated at 50% or more may obtain a complimentary license to fish, trap, hunt, including archery, muzzle load, bear, migratory bird, pheasant, spring/fall wild turkey, coyote night hunt, crossbow, one expanded archery antler less deer permit, and upon meeting the qualifications, a license to guide. This license is available to disabled veterans who are residents of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. This license(s) remains valid for the life of the license holder, as long as the license holder continues to satisfy the residency requirements.

State Park Fees

Any disabled veteran displaying on the veteran's motor vehicle special designating plates or placards issued in accordance with Maine law is not required to pay a fee for admission to any state-owned park, camping area or beach.

Active Duty Military Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Maine military personnel who are on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and permanently stationed outside Maine may purchase either a hunting, fishing, or combination hunting and fishing license for a discount.

Hunting & Fishing Licenses for Non-Resident Active Duty Members

Anyone serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and permanently stationed at a military base in Maine may purchase a resident license to hunt, fish, or trap.

Other State Veteran Benefits

Maine Veterans Memorial Cemeteries

The Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System consists of four cemeteries. One of which is located in Caribou, two in Augusta and one in Springvale. The State will, without charge, open and close the grave and furnish perpetual care. Military rank or civilian stature will not be given consideration in selection or size of individual graves. Consequently, all graves will be equal in

size and type. Selection of the lot will be made by the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery System office in the order that burial requests occur. Eligible dependents will be buried adjacent to the plot of the buried veteran. Visit the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services website <http://www.maine.gov/veterans> for more information on any of these programs.

Pre-registration allows a veteran in advance to establish eligibility for interment within the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System. There is no cost for pre-registration and it does not obligate the veteran to be interred if decided at a later date not to use the cemetery system. Pre-registration is intended to establish eligibility and simplify the process for the veteran's next-of-kin at the time death. Spouses, widows, widowers and dependent children of eligible veterans are also eligible for internment. A separate pre-registration is not necessary for dependents. Specific graves are not reserved until time of death. To download an eligibility brochure and a pre-registration application go to <http://www.maine.gov/veterans/docs/Eligibility-Application-rev-2016.pdf>.



**37 Lombard Road
Caribou, Maine
Tel: 207-287-3483
Established 2003**



**Civic Center Drive
Augusta, Maine
Tel: 207-287-3481
Established in 1970**



**163 Mt. Vernon Road
Augusta, Maine
Tel: 207-287-3481
Established in 2001**



**83 Stanley Road
Springvale, ME 04083
Tel: 207-459-7394
Established in 2010**

Benefits Available from the Division of Motor Vehicles

Qualified veterans can get a special veteran plate containing the disability symbol to enable them to park in designated parking spaces. The new plate is an expanded design of the standard "Special Veteran" plate which bears the red "V". This new plate also bears the red "V" on the left hand side of the plate and has the universal disability symbol on the far right. This plate does not replace the current "Disabled Veteran" plate which bears a flag and is available to those veterans who qualify based on a service connected disability.

Veteran License Plates

Visit <http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/registration/availablevet.html> to find Veteran Plates Issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles,

VETERAN PLATES ISSUED BY THE BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES			
PLATE	CRITERIA	FEE/EXEMPTION	DEPICTION

<p>Purple Heart Plate</p>	<p>Issued to a veteran who is a recipient of the Purple Heart medal; up to two sets of Purple Heart plates can be issued.</p>	<p>Registration fee exempt on a vehicle not to exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.</p>	
<p>Purple Heart Motorcycle Plate</p>	<p>Issued to a veteran upon proof of award of the Purple Heart medal.</p>	<p>Registration fee exempt</p>	
<p>Purple Heart Souvenir Plate</p>	<p>Issued to a qualified veteran or the surviving spouse of the veteran upon proof of award of the Purple Heart medal. Available as a passenger or motorcycle souvenir plate. Not to be displayed on a motor vehicle.</p>	<p>There is no fee to obtain the souvenir plate. Limit: 1.</p>	
<p>Disabled Veteran Plate</p>	<p>*A. Issued to a veteran who is 100% service connected disabled and in receipt of 100% benefits. The disability must be permanent and total.</p>	<p>**Registration fee exempt on a vehicle not to exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.</p>	
<p>*B. Issued to a veteran who has the loss of, or loss of use of both lower extremities.</p>	<p>**Exempt from all motor vehicle related fees to include excise tax, sales tax, registration and title fees. Cannot exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.</p>		
<p>Disabled Veteran Parking Plate</p>	<p>*Refer to criteria listed for Disabled Veteran plate, A & B</p>	<p>**Refer to exemptions for Disabled Veteran plate</p>	
<p>Disabled Veteran Motorcycle Plate</p>	<p>*Refer to criteria listed for Disabled</p>	<p>**Refer to exemptions for Disabled Veteran</p>	

	Veteran plate, A & B	plate	
Amputee/Loss of Use of Limb(s), or Blind Veteran	<p>Any veteran who has the loss of use of a limb, or limbs or is blind and is registering a vehicle in their name, is exempt from all motor vehicle related fees. Veterans in this category may be the recipient of a vehicle from the United States Government.</p> <p>If double amputee of lower extremities or loss of use of lower extremities, a Disabled Veteran or Disabled Veteran parking plate is issued.</p>	Exempt from all motor vehicle related fees to include excise tax, sales tax, registration and title fees. Cannot exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.	 <p>*Passenger plates are standard issue; however, the veteran can display plate of choice</p>
Medal of Honor Plate	Issued to a veteran who is the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor	Registration fee exempt on a vehicle not to exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.	
Former Prisoner of War Plate	Issued to a veteran who was a prisoner of war at any time during tenure of service. Also issued to any civilian citizen of the United States who was interned as a prisoner of war.	Registration fee exempt on a vehicle not to exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.	
Pearl Harbor Survivor Plate	Issued to a veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces and was stationed at Pearl Harbor during the attack on December 7, 1941.	Registration fee exempt on a vehicle not to exceed 10,000 lbs. registered weight.	

<p>Special Veteran Plate</p>	<p>Issued to any veteran who has been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces or to a person who has served for at least 3 years and continues to serve. Up to 3 sets of plates may be issued if the veteran is the primary driver of the vehicles.</p> <p>The Special Veteran plate and the Disability Special Veteran plate (shown below) may display a set of one of 33 Commemorative Veteran Decals. Please visit the Commemorative Veteran Decal Page for more information. Sample shown here of a Special Veteran plate displaying a Korea Decal.</p>	<p>Registration fee required:</p> <p>Up to 6,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$35.00 Up to 10,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$37.00</p>	
<p>Disability Special Veteran Plate</p>	<p>Issued to any veteran who has been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces or to a person who has served for at least 3 years and continues to serve. Up to 3 sets of plates may be issued if the veteran is the primary driver of the vehicles.</p> <p>In addition to proof</p>	<p>Registration fee required:</p> <p>Up to 6,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$35.00 Up to 10,000 lbs. r.v.w.: \$37.00</p>	

	<p>of honorable discharge, the veteran must submit a completed PS-18, Application for Disability Plates.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The criteria for a Disability Special Veteran plate differs from the criteria for a Disabled Veteran plate or Disabled Veteran Parking plate.</i></p>		
<p>Special Veteran Motorcycle Plate</p>	<p>Issued to any veteran who has been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces or to a person who has served for at least 3 years and continues to serve.</p>	<p>Regular motorcycle registration fee of \$21.00 is required.</p>	 <p>A rectangular license plate with a black background. At the top, it says "MAINE". In the center, the number "101" is displayed in large white digits, followed by a smaller "A" to its right. At the bottom, it says "VETERAN".</p>
<p>Gold Star Family Recognition Plate</p>	<p>Issued to a person who is eligible for a Gold Star lapel button or to a grandparent of a member of the United States Armed Forces, if that member dies after March 28, 1973 as a result of an international terrorist attack recognized by the Department of Defense, or as a result of a military operation while serving outside the United States.</p>	<p>Registration fee required: \$35.00</p>	 <p>A rectangular license plate with a white background and a blue border. At the top, it says "MAINE". On the left side, there is a circular emblem featuring a yellow star on a blue background, surrounded by a red and white striped border. In the center, the letters "G" and "S" are stacked vertically in large blue font. To the right of these letters, the number "0000" is displayed in large black digits. At the bottom, it says "United the Free" and "because of the Brave".</p>

Veteran Service Offices

The Bureau's hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Personnel are able to provide information and assistance with benefits available through state, federal and local municipalities. A list of field service offices is available at <http://www.maine.gov/dvem/bvs/offices.htm>. Click the office closest to where you reside for their address, phone number and list of itinerant offices.

Visit the Bureau of Maine Veterans Services website <http://www.maine.gov/dvem/bvs> for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/maine-state-veterans-benefits> July 2017 ++]

Military Discounts in Maine

1. There are close to 1,100 business locations in Massachusetts that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of Wyoming also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zipcode and category in the search box at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/Maine.html> .

2. **Veterans Designation on drivers license:** Yes

3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes**

- Property tax exemption for eligible wartime veterans
- Special veterans' license plates
- Certain disabled veterans are exempt from various motor vehicle related fees
- Free hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses for certain service-connected disabled war veterans
- All veterans receive a free life-time day-use pass to State parks and Historical sites

4. **Education Discounts** - Tuition waivers for children or spouses of disabled veterans or service members that have died in action at in state schools

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/Maine.html> July 2017 ++]