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Louisiana State Veteran's Benefits



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

- Housing Benefits
- Employment Assistance
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Louisiana Veteran Housing Programs

Louisiana War Veterans Homes

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs operates five War Veterans Homes. These homes, located in Reserve, Monroe, Bossier City, Jackson, and Jennings provide nursing care.

Admission to the Homes is limited to Louisiana war veterans. The applicant must agree to abide by all rules and regulations governing the Home. Applicants who have income will be expected to pay for their care as is set forth in the care and maintenance schedule adopted for governing the Home residents. The applicant must undergo an examination to ascertain whether he/she meets the criteria for admission to the Home. For more information call either of these telephone numbers: (225) 634-5265 or (318) 362-4206.

Visit the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://vetaffairs.la.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Louisiana Employment Benefits

Military Service Relief Act

Revised Statutes 29:401-425 relative to military and veterans affairs provide for employers compensation, leave status, retirement credit, life, health and accident insurance coverage, re-employment rights upon release from military service, prohibits against academic penalties, deferral of state income taxes, validation of professional and occupational licenses, and protection of any vacancy in office held by an Elected or Appointed Official, for citizens of Louisiana called to military service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States. The district court in which the state or its political subdivision exercises authority or conducts its business shall have jurisdiction to hear action to enforce the Act.

Veterans Civil Service Preference (Employment Preference)

Article X, of the Louisiana Constitution provides a five-point preference in original appointments to persons honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States who served between the following dates of wartime service:

April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918

September 27, 1940, through July 25, 1947

June 25 1950, through January 31, 1955

July 1, 1958, through May 7, 1975

August 2, 1990, through, date to be determined

(must have been awarded the Southwest Asia Medal)

Or in a peacetime campaign or expedition if a campaign badge or expeditionary medal is authorized.

Ten points preference in original appointments are accorded each honorable discharged veteran who served in either war or peacetime and has one or more service connected disabilities established with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans preference also extends to layoffs over other employees of equal lengths of service and efficiency ratings.

Visit the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://vetaffairs.la.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Louisiana Education Benefits

Dependents Educational Assistance

Section 288 of Title 29 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 has been amended and re-enacted to provide financial aid for children and surviving spouses of certain veterans of this state who died in service in the Armed Forces of the United States or died of a service connected disability incurred during a wartime period.

The law provides the same benefits for those children of living veterans who are rated 90% or above disabled, including 100% individual unemployability, by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs "Schedule for Rating Disabilities", as a result of a disability or disabilities incurred in service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The law further requires that the deceased veteran must have been a resident of the State of Louisiana for at least twelve months immediately preceding entry into service. The living veteran must have resided in the state not less than twenty-four months immediately preceding the child's admission into the Program.

The surviving spouse must use this Program within ten years of the date eligibility is established. A child must be between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five.

National Guard Tuition

The Adjutant General of Louisiana is responsible for the overall policies, guidance, administration, and proper utilization of this program.

Veterans Education and Training - State Approving Agency

Congress passed the legislation for Chapter 36 of Title 38 U.S.C. 38. The State Approving Agency's mission is to conduct inspection/approval, supervision and provide technical assistance to those programs of education pursued by veterans and other eligible persons receiving educational benefits under Title 38, U.S. Code and Title 10, U.S. Code Chapter 1606. The goals are to ensure that all programs of education, job training, and flight schools are available to veterans and other eligible persons.

Visit the [Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs](#) website for contact information and benefits assistance.

Other Louisiana State Veteran Benefits

Free Hunting/Fishing Licenses

Act 417 amends and re-enacts Subsection F of Section 104 and Subsection C of Section 333 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 to provide disabled veterans classified with a service connected permanent disability, rated 50% or higher and who are Louisiana residents, to be issued licenses to fish and hunt free of charge. The law further provides for free license books, returns, transfer of license and also licenses for scientific or experimental purposes.

The law further provides that persons in the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty, to be given resident privileges. Applications may be obtained and certified by contacting the local Parish Veterans Service Office.

Free Entrance to State Parks

Act 172 of the 1977 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature provides that any Louisiana resident who is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States and who has suffered the amputation of a limb or who at any time has been awarded an allowance toward the purchase of an automobile by the U.S. Government or any Louisiana resident who is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who, as the result of a service connected disability, has been classified as 50% or more permanently disabled or permanent and total as a result of non-service connected disabilities shall be exempt from paying the day use entrance fee to any Louisiana state park.

Free "Purple Heart" License Plates

Revised Statute 47:463.26 provides for the issuance of a Free License Plate for recipients of the "Purple Heart" medal to be used in lieu of the regular motor vehicle registration plates. The recipient may be issued only one plate and such plate shall not be subject to renewal requirements applicable to regular numbered plates. A written request submitted with proof of receiving the Purple Heart should be sent to the Department of Public Safety. The surviving spouse may retain this plate in the event of the recipients death.

Motor Vehicle - Disabled Veterans - Special License Plates, Exemptions

Subsection B of Section 463 of Title 47 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended and re-enacted by Act 263, Section 1 of the Louisiana Legislature, provides for any amputee or blind veteran of World War II or of service on or after June 27, 1950, who is a Louisiana citizen and who received financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in the purchase of an automobile under provisions of Public Law 663 of the 79th Congress as amended, or under Public Law 187 of the 82nd Congress to be exempt from payment of any motor vehicle registration or license tax on such automobile thus received and is also exempt from payment of such tax on each subsequent automobile purchased by him as replacement, so long as it is determined by evidence from the U.S.

Department of Veterans Affairs that his disability (disabilities) still meet(s) the requirements which were met originally in establishing his eligibility to an automobile. Fifty percent or more service connected disabled veterans are eligible for the free license plate.

Special Prestigious License Plates for Certain Veterans and Retirees

The Louisiana Legislature has authorized the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue prestige license plates to certain Louisiana veterans and retired (military) veterans. These plates will be issued for use on any privately-owned passenger car, pickup truck, or van of the veteran applicant. The cost of these plates are the same as the regular issue. Contact the Office of Motor Vehicles to obtain a detailed list of these prestige plates and the requirements for issuance thereof.

Recording of Discharges

Section 132, Title 44 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 provides for, upon presentation of the Discharge Certificate or other evidence, the register of Conveyances shall record in his records, without charge, each Discharge Certificate or other evidence of honorable separation from the Armed Forces of the United States of men and women who have served in these Forces.

Visit the [Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs](http://www.louisiana.gov/veterans) website for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/louisiana-state-veterans-benefits.html> Feb 2013
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