

**SECTION 1.** 45.001 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

45.001 (4) “Veteran” means any of the following:

(a) A person who has served on active duty for at least one qualifying term of service under honorable conditions in, or has been terminated by an honorable discharge from, the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, except service on active duty for training purposes, during a war period or in Bosnia, Grenada, Lebanon, Panama, Somalia, or a Middle East crisis.

(b) A person who has served on active duty for 90 days or more under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, except service on active duty for training purposes, during a war period or under section 1 of executive order 10957 dated August 10, 1961.

(c) A person whose term of service in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces under honorable conditions entitled him or her to receive the armed forces expeditionary medal, established by executive order 10977 on December 4, 1961, the Vietnam service medal established by executive order 11231 on July 8, 1965, the navy expeditionary medal, or the marine corps expeditionary medal.

(d) A person who has served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, except service on active duty for training purposes, under honorable conditions, for 2 continuous years or more or for the full period of his or her initial service obligation, whichever is less.

(e) A person who was honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces or from forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, except service on active duty for

training purposes, for a service-connected disability, for a disability subsequently adjudicated to have been service connected, or for reasons of hardship.

(f) A person who was released under honorable conditions from the U.S. armed forces or from forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, except service on active duty for training purposes, due to a reduction in the U.S. armed forces.

(g) A person who died while in service in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, except service on active duty for training purposes. [is this exception correct?]

**SECTION 2.** 45.015 of the statutes is amended to read:

**45.015 Eligibility for benefits. (1)** Any person whose service on active duty with the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces makes that person eligible for general U.S. department of veterans affairs benefits shall be considered to have served under honorable conditions for purposes of this chapter.

**SECTION 3.** 45.015 (2), (3), and (4) of the statutes are created to read:

45.015 **(2)** Except as provided in sub. (3), to be eligible for benefits under this chapter a veteran shall be a resident of and living in this state at the time of making application or is deceased, and meet one of the following conditions:

(a) His or her selective service local board, if any, and home of record at the time of entry or reentry into active service as shown on the veteran's report of separation from the U.S. armed forces for a qualifying period were in this state.

(b) Was a resident of this state at the time of entry or reentry into active duty.

(c) Was a resident of this state for any consecutive 12-month period after entry or reentry into service and before the date of his or her application or death.

**(3)** Veterans who are otherwise eligible and who are serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces need not be living in this state on date of application to qualify for benefits from the department. *[from 45.001 (4) (c)]*

**(4)** If the department determines that a person applying for a benefit under this chapter meets the residency requirement under sub. (2) (c), the department may not require the person to reestablish that he or she meets that residency requirement when he or she later applies for any other benefit under this chapter that requires that residency. *[from 45.001 (4) (a) 2.c.]*