

CHAPTER 35
VETERANS AFFAIRS

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35.1 Definitions.

As used in [this chapter](#) and [chapters 35A through 35D](#):

1. “*Department*” means the Iowa department of veterans affairs created in [section 35A.4](#).
2. “*Veteran*” means any of the following:

a. A resident of this state who served in the armed forces of the United States at any time during the following dates and who was discharged under honorable conditions:

- (1) World War I from April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918.
- (2) Occupation of Germany from November 12, 1918, through July 11, 1923.
- (3) American expeditionary forces in Siberia from November 12, 1918, through April 30, 1920.
- (4) Second Haitian suppression of insurrections from 1919 through 1920.
- (5) Second Nicaragua campaign with marines or navy in Nicaragua or on combatant ships from 1926 through 1933.
- (6) Yangtze service with navy and marines in Shanghai or in the Yangtze valley from 1926 through 1927 and 1930 through 1932.
- (7) China service with navy and marines from 1937 through 1939.
- (8) World War II from December 7, 1941, through December 31, 1946.
- (9) Korean Conflict from June 25, 1950, through January 31, 1955.
- (10) Vietnam Conflict from February 28, 1961, through May 7, 1975.
- (11) Lebanon or Grenada service from August 24, 1982, through July 31, 1984.
- (12) Panama service from December 20, 1989, through January 31, 1990.
- (13) Persian Gulf Conflict from August 2, 1990, through the date the president or the Congress of the United States declares a cessation of hostilities. However, if the United States Congress enacts a date different from August 2, 1990, as the beginning of the Persian Gulf Conflict for purposes of determining whether a veteran is entitled to receive military benefits as a veteran of the Persian Gulf Conflict, that date shall be substituted for August 2, 1990.

b. (1) Former members of the reserve forces of the United States who served at least twenty years in the reserve forces and who were discharged under honorable conditions. However, a member of the reserve forces of the United States who completed a minimum aggregate of ninety days of federal active duty, other than training, and was discharged under honorable conditions, or was retired under Tit. 10 of the United States Code shall be included as a veteran.

(2) Former members of the Iowa national guard who served at least twenty years in the Iowa national guard and who were discharged under honorable conditions. However, a member of the Iowa national guard who was activated for federal duty, other than training, for a minimum aggregate of ninety days, and was discharged under honorable conditions or was retired under Tit. 10 of the United States Code shall be included as a veteran.

(3) Former members of the active, oceangoing merchant marines who served during World War II at any time between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, both dates inclusive, who were discharged under honorable conditions.

(4) Former members of the women’s air force service pilots and other persons who have been conferred veterans status based on their civilian duties during World War II in accordance with federal Pub. L. No. 95-202, 38 U.S.C. §106.

(5) Former members of the armed forces of the United States if any portion of their term of enlistment would have occurred during the time period of the Korean Conflict from June 25,

1950, through January 31, 1955, but who instead opted to serve five years in the reserve forces of the United States, as allowed by federal law, and who were discharged under honorable conditions.

(6) Members of the reserve forces of the United States who have served at least twenty years in the reserve forces and who continue to serve in the reserve forces.

(7) Members of the Iowa national guard who have served at least twenty years in the Iowa national guard and who continue to serve in the Iowa national guard.

c. A resident of this state who served on federal active duty, other than training, in the armed forces of the United States and who was discharged under honorable conditions.

d. A resident of this state who served in any component of the armed forces of the United States, who is in receipt of service-connected disability from the United States department of veterans affairs, and who was discharged under honorable conditions.

99 Acts, ch 180, §2; 2003 Acts, ch 142, §4, 11; 2005 Acts, ch 115, §2 – 4, 40; 2009 Acts, ch 164, §1, 7; 2010 Acts, ch 1061, §180; 2012 Acts, ch 1072, §26, 27; 2024 Acts, ch 1047, §1

Referred to in §8A.413, 12.34, 35.2, 35B.3, 35B.14, 35B.16, 35C.1, 37.10, 91A.5A, 256.183, 256.229, 260C.14, 262.9, 272C.12A, 282.6, 331.608, 400.10, 425.15, 426A.11, 426A.12, 426A.13, 514C.27, 523L.304, 546B.1

35.2 Proof of veteran status for certain veterans.

In order to fulfill any eligibility requirements under Iowa law pertaining to veteran status, a veteran described in [section 35.1, subsection 2](#), paragraph “b”, subparagraph (6) or (7), shall submit the veteran’s retirement points accounting statement issued by the armed forces of the United States, the state adjutant general, or the adjutant general of any other state, to confirm that the person has completed twenty years of service with the reserve forces or the national guard.

2005 Acts, ch 115, §5, 40

Referred to in §426A.13

35.3 Veterans preference in private employment permitted.

1. A private employer may grant preference in hiring and promotion to an individual who is a veteran.

2. a. A private employer may grant preference in hiring and promotion to the spouse of a veteran who has sustained a permanent, compensable service-connected disability as adjudicated by the United States veterans administration or by the retirement board of one of the armed forces of the United States.

b. A private employer may grant preference in hiring and promotion to the surviving spouse of a deceased member of the United States armed forces who died while serving on active duty during a time of military conflict or who died as a result of such service.

3. Granting a hiring or promotion preference under [this section](#) does not violate any state law or local ordinance regarding equal employment opportunity, including but not limited to [chapter 216](#).

4. The hiring and promotion preferences allowable under [this section](#) shall only be granted if consistent with applicable federal laws and regulations.

2014 Acts, ch 1116, §29

35.4 and 35.5 Reserved.

35.6 Contract with United States department of veterans affairs.

A state agency or a political subdivision of this state operating a hospital or medical facility may contract with the United States department of veterans affairs to receive and to provide medical services to patients who are the responsibility of a United States department of veterans affairs hospital or medical facility in the same jurisdiction or medical service area.

88 Acts, ch 1011, §1; 2009 Acts, ch 26, §2

35.7 Orphans educational fund. Repealed by 99 Acts, ch 180, §21.

35.8 through 35.12 Repealed by 2012 Acts, ch 1059, §13.