

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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October 23, 1945

To:
Lt. J. Shelby Coffey, Jr.
Legal Assistance Officer
U. S. Naval Personnel Separation Center
Nashville, Tennessee

I have your letter of October 15th stating that residents of the State of Maine are being discharged through your Separation Center and that it is advisable that you be familiar with our State laws affecting veterans from this State. The principal provisions are in substance:

Totally disabled veterans have a tax exemption up to \$3500. assessed value.

Discharge and release papers may be filed with the town or city clerk - filing fee, 25¢ - and attested copies of such records will be accepted in evidence.

Towns may raise money for local rehabilitation programs.

Federal funds for relief, etc., will be received and disbursed by the Department of Health and Welfare. A veteran receiving relief shall not be considered a pauper.

The office of Veterans' Affairs will furnish information to veterans as to their rights, privileges, etc.

Veterans otherwise qualified will receive free driving licenses for the current year, and may have free licenses to hunt and fish for 2 years.

Chapter 72 of the Public Laws of 1945 implements the G.I. Bill of Rights as to guaranteed loans; and Chapter 207 provides that such loans may be made to veterans who are minors or to their wives.

Chapter 259, P. L. 1945, exempts veterans from the 3-month clause on restaurant and malt beverage licenses.

Maine has adopted the Uniform Veterans Guardianship Act.

If a veteran resident in this State is admitted to the Veterans Facility at Togus, his voting residence remains in his home town.

Veterans have certain privileges in regard to admission to the bar.

Absence of a seal does not invalidate documents executed by members of the armed forces while in active service.

In addition to the above, there are several provisions applicable to veterans formerly in State or county employ; and veterans, wives of disabled veterans, and veterans' widows receive preferential treatment when applying for State employment - 5 point preference to able-bodied veterans, 10 point to disabled veterans, wives of disabled veterans, and veterans' widows, not remarried.

If you desire further information as to what is being done for our veterans, I would suggest your writing to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, State House, Augusta, Maine.

Ralph W. Farris
Attorney General