

AN ACT concerning State government.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Department of Veterans' Affairs Act is amended by changing Sections 2.01 and 2.05 as follows:

(20 ILCS 2805/2.01) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 67.01)

Sec. 2.01. Veterans Home admissions.

(a) Any honorably discharged veteran is entitled to admission to an Illinois Veterans Home if the applicant meets the requirements of this Section.

(b) The veteran must:

(1) have served in the armed forces of the United States at least 1 day in World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Viet Nam Campaign, or the Persian Gulf Conflict between the dates recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or between any other present or future dates recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a war period, or have served in a hostile fire environment and has been awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal signifying his or her service, for purposes of eligibility for domiciliary or nursing home care;

(2) have served and been honorably discharged or retired from the armed forces of the United States for a

service connected disability or injury, for purposes of eligibility for domiciliary or nursing home care;

(3) have served as an enlisted person at least 90 days on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, excluding service on active duty for training purposes only, and entered active duty before September 8, 1980, for purposes of eligibility for domiciliary or nursing home care;

(4) have served as an officer at least 90 days on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, excluding service on active duty for training purposes only, and entered active duty before October 17, 1981, for purposes of eligibility for domiciliary or nursing home care;

(5) have served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States for 24 months of continuous service or more, excluding active duty for training purposes only, and enlisted after September 7, 1980, for purposes of eligibility for domiciliary or nursing home care;

(6) have served as a reservist in the armed forces of the United States or the National Guard and the service included being called to federal active duty, excluding service on active duty for training purposes only, and who completed the term, for purposes of eligibility for domiciliary or nursing home care;

(7) have been discharged for reasons of hardship or

released from active duty due to a reduction in the United States armed forces prior to the completion of the required period of service, regardless of the actual time served, for purposes of eligibility for domiciliary or nursing home care; or

(8) have served in the National Guard or Reserve Forces of the United States and completed 20 years of satisfactory service, be otherwise eligible to receive reserve or active duty retirement benefits, and have been an Illinois resident for at least one year before applying for admission for purposes of eligibility for domiciliary care only.

(c) The veteran must have service accredited to the State of Illinois or have been a resident of this State for one year immediately preceding the date of application.

(d) For admission to the Illinois Veterans Homes at Anna and Quincy, the veteran must have developed a disability by disease, wounds, or otherwise and because of the disability be incapable of earning a living.

(e) For admission to the Illinois Veterans Homes at Chicago, LaSalle, and Manteno, the veteran must have developed a disability by disease, wounds, or otherwise and, for purposes of eligibility for nursing home care, require nursing care because of the disability.

(f) An individual who served during a time of conflict as set forth in paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Section

has preference over all other qualifying candidates, for purposes of eligibility for domiciliary or nursing home care at any Illinois Veterans Home.

(g) A veteran or spouse, once admitted to an Illinois Veterans Home facility, is considered a resident for interfacility purposes.

(h) A non-veteran spouse shall only have the same priority for admission to a Veterans Home as a veteran if the non-veteran spouse and his or her veteran spouse are admitted at the same time to live together at the Veterans Home.

(Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15; 99-314, eff. 8-7-15; 99-642, eff. 7-28-16; 100-392, eff. 8-25-17.)

(20 ILCS 2805/2.05) (from Ch. 126 1/2, par. 67.05)

Sec. 2.05. When any veteran is a resident or becomes a resident of the Illinois Veterans Homes at Anna or Quincy, the spouse of the veteran may be admitted as a resident of the Home, subject to the rules and regulations of the Home governing the admission of applicants and in accordance with subsection (h) of Section 2.01, if (i) the spouse was married to the veteran for at least 5 years preceding the date of making application for admission, and (ii) the spouse has no adequate means of support and is unable to earn a living. Preference for filling vacant beds or for filling beds from a waiting list shall first be granted to eligible veterans, except as provided under subsection (h) of Section 2.01.

Every veteran residing in a Home whose spouse is also a resident shall deposit in his or her trust account at the Home such monies from any source of income as may be deemed necessary by the administrator for the personal comfort needs of the spouse. If the veteran does not have a monthly income or cash assets, the personal comfort needs of the resident spouse shall be provided by the State.

Upon the death of a veteran who has been a resident of a Home, the surviving spouse, if he or she so desires, may thereafter remain for life in the Illinois Veterans Home at Quincy or the Illinois Veterans Home at Anna, subject to the rules and regulations of the Home.

(Source: P.A. 88-160; 89-324, eff. 8-13-95.)