Recent changes in the law expanded the definition of a veteran to include certain peacetime veterans. The changes apply to applications submitted on or after October 14, 1997. Since that date, the Department of Employment Relations has been notifying applicants of this expanded definition through a special notice contained in the Current Employment Opportunities Bulletin. This bulletin contains a new Veterans Preference Supplement form which has been modified to reflect the changed definition.

Effective October 14, 1997, if an applicant is not a permanent state employe in the classified service, and if the applicant meets the requirements below, then the person may be awarded 10 veterans preference points.

§230.03(14)(d) Wis. Stats: “A person who served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces for 2 continuous years or more or the full period of the person’s initial service obligation, whichever is less. A person discharged from the U.S. armed forces for reasons of hardship or service-connected disability or a person released due to a reduction in the U.S. armed forces prior to the completion of the required period of service shall also be considered a ‘veteran’, regardless of the actual time served.”

The above definition is in addition to the previous qualifying wartime periods. Thus, if an individual had service in other periods listed on the Veterans Preference Supplement form, he or she still qualifies for preference points.

The definition of “disabled veteran” was also changed. The new definition of “disabled veteran” no longer requires the disability to be directly traceable to wartime service. The disability must only be service-connected in order to receive additional veterans preference points.
§230.03(9m) “Disabled veteran” means a veteran who has a service-connected disability.

The change also means that a current permanent classified state employe who has a 70% or greater service-connected disability may be eligible for special consideration on promotional registers. Service does not have to occur during a specified war period or campaign.

The Veterans Preference Supplement form (DER-MRS-38L) has been modified to reflect these changes. A copy of the revised form is attached. Agencies that use this form should make copies (on green paper) of the attachment since the Veterans Preference Supplement is not available from DOA Forms Center. Agencies can continue to accept the old Supplement form but should destroy any existing quantities on hand and begin passing out the new replacement version.

Robert J. Lavigna, Administrator
Division of Merit Recruitment and Selection

RJL:DLH:DLH

Attachment

vpsuppl.doc