



## Department of the Secretary of State Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Matthew Dunlap  
Secretary of State

Patty A. Morneau  
Deputy Secretary of State

Stephen P. Ashcroft  
Director of Vehicle Services

January 14, 2020

To: All BMV Staff, and Municipal Registration Agents

Re: Eligibility documentation for a Special Veteran registration plates

Recently, new information has been provided by the Maine Bureau of Veterans Services regarding certain retired National Guard personnel being classified as “Veterans” by the Department of Defense.

In 2016, Congress enacted a public law (*PL 114-315 Section 305*) indicating that a retired National Guardsman, who is entitled to retirement pay, would be considered a “Veteran”. In discussions with the BVS, we have agreed that a retirement letter received from the National Guard, on letterhead of the department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management would be considered proof of the designation of “Veteran”. (see attached sample letter)

As we all know, qualification for Special Veteran registration plates is outlined in Title 29A Sec 523(3) and 523(3A), below is an excerpt from that;

*“Each application must be accompanied by the applicant's Armed Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge, DD Form 214, certification from the United States Veterans Administration or the appropriate branch of the United States Armed Forces verifying the applicant's military service and honorable discharge, or a letter from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services verifying active duty military service and length of service”*

We have agreed that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will honor the intent of the law and honor National Guardsman as “Veterans” who provide the completed attached letter from Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to our staff. Please make note of this change.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact our Municipal Coordinators or the Registrations Unit.

Sincerely,

Stephen Ashcroft  
Director of Vehicle Services – Bureau of Motor Vehicles