

# The Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance



## **ACTION LETTER**

Action Letter #1  
September 2004

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### **2004-2005 PROGRAMS GUIDELINES UPDATES**

Dear Colleague:

This Action Letter specifically updates the Massachusetts Veteran Tuition Waiver Program guidelines contained in the **2004-2005** Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance's Programs Policies and Procedures. The update, below, is effective for the academic year **2004-2005**. To access a full copy of the **2004-2005** Massachusetts Veteran Tuition Waiver Program guidelines, go to:

**[http://www.osfa.mass.edu/pdfs/2004\\_2005\\_Tuition\\_Waivers.pdf](http://www.osfa.mass.edu/pdfs/2004_2005_Tuition_Waivers.pdf)**

The definition of a "Veteran", as contained in Chapter 116 of the Acts of 2004, is now the following:

**SECTION 1.** Clause Forty-third of [section 7 of chapter 4](#) of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the definition of "Veteran" and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

*"Veteran" shall mean (1) any person, (a) whose last discharge or release from his wartime service as defined herein, was under honorable conditions and who (b) served in the army, navy, marine corps, coast guard, or air force of the United States, or on full time national guard duty under Titles 10 or 32 of the United States Code or under sections 38, 40 and 41 of chapter 33 for not less than 90 days active service, at least 1 day of which was for wartime service; provided, however, that any person who so served in wartime and was awarded a service-connected disability or a Purple Heart, or who died in such service under conditions other than dishonorable, shall be deemed to be a veteran notwithstanding his failure to complete 90 days of active service; (2) a member of the American Merchant Marine who served in armed conflict between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946, and who has received honorable discharges from the United States Coast Guard, Army, or Navy; (3) any person (a) whose last discharge from active service was under honorable conditions, and who (b) served in the army, navy, marine corps, coast guard, or air force of the United States for not less than 180 days active service; provided, however, that any person who so served and was awarded a service-connected disability or who died in such service under conditions other than*

*dishonorable, shall be deemed to be a veteran notwithstanding his failure to complete 180 days of active service.*

***SECTION 2.*** *Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no benefits provided to a veteran pursuant to chapter 115 of the General Laws or any other benefits as provided to the veteran by the commonwealth shall be reduced or extinguished in order to effectuate this act.*

*Approved May 28, 2004.*

Please do not hesitate to contact our office at 617.727.9420, if you have any questions or need assistance.

Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance