

Defense Authorization Act

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Effective January 6, 2006, the President signed into Public Law 109-163, the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal year 2006. This law contains two provisions regarding certain veterans. The first provision, section 1111, accords veterans' preference for certain veterans who served on active duty during the period beginning 11 September 2001 and ending as of the close of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This means that anyone who served on active duty for a period of more than 180 consecutive days, any part of which occurred during this period of time, regardless of location, is entitled to veteran's preference if otherwise eligible. This applies not only to candidates seeking employment, but to Federal employees that are qualifying veterans who may be affected by reduction in force as well. The second provision, section 1112, clarifies that veterans' preference eligibility for Federal hiring authorized under section 2108(1) of title 5, United States Code, is available to individuals "who are discharged or released from active duty service.." as opposed to those individuals "separated from the armed forces".