

**Business fee exemption
for veteran-owned and reservist-owned small businesses**
Act 135 of 2016 (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 9610-9611)

Veterans and reservists starting a small business in the Commonwealth are exempt from the payment of a business fee effective January 2, 2017.

A **business fee** is any fee required to be paid to the Commonwealth or a political subdivision for starting or opening a business within Pennsylvania. The term does not include a fee for maintaining licensure or other requirement for continuing to operate a business. A **small business** must be independently owned, not dominant in its field of operation and employ 100 or fewer employees. A **veteran- or reservist-owned small business** must be owned and controlled by a veteran/veterans or reservist/reservists.

A **veteran** is an individual who served in the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component or the National Guard, and who was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable. A **reservist** is a member of a United States Armed Forces reserve component or National Guard.

The filing fees for the following documents will be waived by the Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations, when the documents are signed by the veteran or reservist and submitted with proof of the veteran's or reservist's status:

- Articles of Incorporation (for profit) - \$125
[DSCB:15-1306/2102/2303/2703/2903/3101/3303/7102]
- Articles of Incorporation (nonprofit) [DSCB:15-5306/7102] - \$125
- Certificate of Organization [DSCB:15-8821] - \$125
- Certificate of Limited Partnership [DSCB:15-8621] - \$125
- Registration - Domestic Registered Limited Liability Partnership [DSCB:15-8201A] - \$125
- Foreign Registration Statement [DSCB:15-412] - \$250
- Registration of Fictitious Name [DSCB:54-311] - \$70

The above-listed business formation documents may be submitted directly from the veteran or reservist or submitted through a law firm or service company. All formation/registration documents must be signed by the veteran or reservist seeking the fee exemption and attach proof of the veteran's or reservist's status.

A veteran or reservist must provide the Bureau with proof of the veteran's or reservist's status at the time the business application is submitted. Such proof includes a legible photocopy of:

- A Federal DD-214 form (must be MEMBER - 4 form, showing Character of Service)
- A Federal NGB-22 form
- A valid Federal Veterans' Administration card or
- A valid Department of Defense-issued military identification card

Filings and proof of veteran/reservist status may be submitted to the Bureau online through [PENN File](#), by mail or via personal delivery.