



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact:
Raymond Filippone (401) 462-8415
Temporary Disability Insurance

New Provision in TDI Law to Benefit Combat Veterans

CRANSTON, RI—Members of the United States military, the Rhode Island National Guard or a United States military reserve unit who served in a United States-declared combat operation may be eligible to receive Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) benefits as a result of a new law signed by Governor Carcieri on July 15, 2005. The law changes the method by which monetary eligibility for TDI benefits is determined for these combat veterans.

“The Governor submitted the legislation because he felt strongly that individuals serving their country should not be disqualified from receiving benefits because their service time interrupted their normal employment,” explained Director Lita S. Orefice.

For all individuals who file a claim for TDI benefits, monetary eligibility for benefits is determined by using a certain period of earnings, known as the “base period.” The “base period” consists of the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters of earnings prior to the date the disability began. If an individual is determined to be monetarily ineligible because of insufficient base period earnings, the law allows for the claim to be recalculated with “alternate base period,” using the last four completed calendar quarters of earnings prior to the date the disability began.

Governor Carcieri’s amendment applies to members of the United States military, the Rhode Island National Guard or a United State military reserve unit who served in a United States-declared combat operation, and is retroactive to March 2, 2002.

The individual who files a claim for TDI benefits following his or her release from active military service and who is monetarily ineligible for benefits using the existing “base period” or the “alternate base period” will have his or her claim redetermined using one of the following base periods:

- The first four of the most recently completed five calendar quarters of earnings immediately preceding the first day the individual was called into state or federal active military service.
- If the individual is monetarily ineligible using the above base period, the claim will be recalculated using the last four completed calendar quarters of earnings immediately preceding the first day the individual was called into state or federal active military service.

Individuals will be asked to provide a copy of their DD214 (release from active duty) or other comparable documentation indicating service in combat duty with their application.

For more information or to download an application for benefits, visit the TDI website at <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/tdi> or call (401) 462-8420.

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