SYNOPSIS
Proposes constitutional amendment to extend to veterans who did not serve during time of war or other emergency civil service preference and property tax deduction.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel
ACR74 QUIJANO, COUGHLIN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION proposing to amend Article VII, Section I, paragraph 2 and Article VIII, Section I, paragraph 3 of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey.

BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey (the Senate concurring):

1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of New Jersey is hereby agreed to:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Amend Article VII, Section I, paragraph 2 to read as follows:

Amend Article VIII, Section I, paragraph 3 to read as follows:

a. Any citizen and resident of this State now or hereafter honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service, in time of war or other emergency as, from time to time, defined by the Legislature, in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be entitled, annually to a deduction from the amount of any tax bill for taxes on real and personal property, or both, including taxes attributable to a residential unit held by a stockholder in a cooperative or mutual housing corporation, in the sum of $50 or if the amount of any such tax bill shall be less than $50, to a cancellation thereof, except that the deduction or cancellation shall be $100 in tax year 2000, $150 in tax year 2001, $200 in tax year 2002 and $250 in each tax year thereafter, or if the amount of any such tax bill shall be less than $250, to a cancellation thereof. The deduction or cancellation shall not be altered or repealed. Any person hereinafter described who has been or shall be declared by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability, shall be entitled to such further deduction from taxation as from time to time may be provided by law. The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State who has met or shall meet his or her death on

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
active duty in time of war or of other emergency as so defined in any such service shall be entitled, during her widowhood or his widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a resident of this State, to the deduction or cancellation in this paragraph provided for honorably discharged veterans and to such further deduction as from time to time may be provided by law. The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State who has had or shall hereafter have active service in time of war or of other emergency as so defined in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States and who died or shall die while on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, or who has been or may hereafter be honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in time of war or of other emergency as so defined in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be entitled, during her widowhood or his widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a resident of this State, to the deduction or cancellation in this paragraph provided for honorably discharged veterans and to such further deductions as from time to time may be provided by law.

b. Any citizen and resident of this State now or hereafter honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States who did not serve in time of war or other emergency as, from time to time, defined by the Legislature, shall be entitled annually to a deduction from the amount of any tax bill for taxes on real and personal property, or both, including taxes attributable to a residential unit held by a stockholder in a cooperative or mutual housing corporation, in the sum of $250 in each tax year, or if the amount of any such tax bill shall be less than $250, to a cancellation thereof. The deduction or cancellation shall not be altered or repealed. Any person hereinabove described who has been or shall be declared by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or its successor, to have a service-connected disability, shall be entitled to such further deduction from taxation as from time to time may be provided by law. The surviving spouse of such a veteran shall be entitled, during her widowhood or his widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a resident of this State, to the annual deduction or cancellation provided in this subparagraph.

(cf: Article VIII, Section I, paragraph 3 amended effective December 2, 1999)

2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it shall be submitted to the people at the next general election occurring more than three months after the final agreement and shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three months prior to the general election.

3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and form:

   There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the general election, the following:

   a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used, a legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

      If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "No."

   b. In every municipality the following question:
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW ANY VETERAN TO RECEIVE CIVIL SERVICE HIRING PREFERENCE AND PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION.
Do you approve amending the Constitution to give a hiring preference under civil service laws and an annual $250 property tax deduction to all honorably discharged veterans, including those who did not serve in time of war or emergency, and their surviving spouses? The amendment would also allow an additional deduction for disabled veterans, if approved by law.

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT
At present, the State constitution gives both a hiring preference for civil service employment and an annual property tax deduction of $250 to honorably discharged military veterans who served during war or emergency. Surviving spouses of these veterans are also eligible for these benefits. Disabled veterans may currently receive an additional property tax deduction by law.
This constitutional amendment would allow honorably discharged military veterans who did not serve during a time of war or emergency, and their surviving spouses, to also receive a civil service hiring preference and an annual $250 property tax deduction. The amendment also would allow an additional property tax deduction to be given by law to veterans who were disabled during active service in the military but did not serve during war or emergency.

STATEMENT
Currently, only veterans who serve during a time of war or other emergency are eligible to receive the civil service hiring preference or the property tax deduction. This concurrent resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to permit veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces who did not serve during a time of war or other emergency, to receive a civil service hiring preference and a property tax deduction. The annual property tax deduction is
$250. The surviving spouse of such a veteran would also be eligible for the property tax deduction and the hiring preference. In addition, this amendment to the constitution will permit further deductions for certain disabled veterans who did not serve during a time of war or other emergency, such as the veterans property tax exemption.