

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 283, *approved January 9, 2020*

Senate, No. 2106

- 1 **AN ACT** concerning New Jersey residents who enroll in a federal
2 service academy, and amending N.J.S.38A:3-6.
3
- 4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*
6
- 7 1. N.J.S.38A:3-6 is amended to read as follows:
8 38A:3-6. Under the direction of the Governor, the Adjutant
9 General shall:
- 10 (a) Exercise control over the affairs of the Department of
11 Military and Veterans' Affairs and in connection therewith make
12 and issue such regulations governing the work of the Department of
13 Military and Veterans' Affairs and the conduct of its employees as
14 may, in his judgment, be necessary or desirable.
- 15 (b) Be the request officer of the Department of Military and
16 Veterans' Affairs within the meaning of such term as defined in
17 section 1 of P.L.1944, c.112 (C.52:27B-1).
- 18 (c) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1988, c.138.)
- 19 (d) Command the organized militia of the State, with
20 responsibility for recruiting, mobilization, administration, training,
21 discipline, equipping, supply and general efficiency thereof. He
22 may issue such regulations and delegate such command functions as
23 he shall deem necessary. The regulations so issued shall, insofar as
24 possible, conform to the federal laws and regulations concerning the
25 same.
- 26 (e) Maintain the archives and be the custodian of the records
27 and papers required, by laws or regulations, to be filed with the
28 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.
- 29 (f) Supervise, administer and coordinate those activities of the
30 selective service system for which the Governor is responsible.
- 31 (g) Acquire by gift, grant, purchase, exchange, eminent domain,
32 or in any other lawful manner, in the name of and for the use of the
33 State of New Jersey, all those parcels of land as shall be necessary
34 for armories and other militia facilities, and supervise the design,
35 construction, alteration, maintenance and repair of said property.
- 36 (h) Establish and maintain such headquarters as may be required
37 for the militia.
- 38 (i) Exercise the powers vested in him and perform such other
39 duties and functions as required of him by the Governor and by
40 federal and State laws and regulations.

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.

1 (j) Exercise all of the functions, powers and duties heretofore
2 vested in the Director of the Division on Veterans' Programs and
3 Special Services.

4 (k) Appoint and remove officers and other personnel employed
5 within the department, subject to the provisions of N.J.S.38A:3-8
6 and Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes and other applicable
7 statutes, except as herein otherwise specifically provided.

8 (l) Have authority to organize and maintain an administrative
9 division and to assign to employment therein secretarial, clerical
10 and other assistants in the department or the Adjutant General's
11 Office for the purpose of providing centralized support to all
12 segments of the department, including budgeting, personnel
13 administration and oversight of equal opportunity programs.

14 (m) Perform, exercise and discharge the functions, powers and
15 duties of the department through such divisions as may be
16 established by this act or otherwise by law.

17 (n) Organize the work of the department in divisions not
18 inconsistent with the provisions of this act and in bureaus and other
19 organizational units as the Adjutant General may determine to be
20 necessary for efficient and effective operation.

21 (o) Adopt, issue and promulgate, in the name of the department,
22 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
23 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be
24 authorized by law.

25 (p) Institute, or cause to be instituted, legal proceedings or
26 processes as necessary to properly enforce and give effect to any of
27 the Adjutant General's powers or duties.

28 (q) Make an annual report to the Governor and to the
29 Legislature of the department's operations, and render other reports
30 as the Governor shall from time to time request or as may be
31 required by law.

32 (r) Coordinate the activities of the department, and the several
33 divisions and other agencies therein, in a manner designed to
34 eliminate overlapping and duplicative functions.

35 (s) Integrate within the department, so far as practicable, all
36 staff services of the department and of several divisions and other
37 agencies therein.

38 (t) Request access to all relevant files and records of other State
39 agencies, which may be made available to the Adjutant General by
40 the head of a State agency, and request, subject to the permission of
41 the head of the State agency, any officer or employee therein to
42 provide information as necessary to assist in the performance of the
43 functions of the department.

44 (u) Supervise and operate the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial
45 Home-Menlo Park, the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-
46 Vineland, the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Paramus and
47 the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Cemetery-Arneytown.

1 (v) Supervise and operate the liaison office and the field offices
2 which serve the federal Veterans' Affairs Medical Centers.

3 (w) Make application for federal grants and programs, other than
4 education grants or funds.

5 (x) Administer the federally-funded training and rehabilitation
6 programs, except for the administration of federally-funded
7 education and training programs set forth in 38 U.S.C. s.36 et seq.

8 (y) Provide current information to the general public on State
9 and federal veterans' programs and benefits; create a comprehensive
10 public webpage for women veterans that includes, but is not limited
11 to, the following information: veterans' legal rights, benefits,
12 medical and insurance issues, education, the transition from active
13 service to civilian life, and other resources available to veterans.

14 (z) Develop and administer the New Jersey Homeless Veterans
15 Grant Program established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2013, c.239
16 (C.38A:3-6.2b).

17 (aa) Encourage and facilitate the registration of each service
18 member residing in New Jersey with the United States Department
19 of Veterans Affairs, or its successor agency. Registration shall take
20 place, as appropriate, when the service member returns from
21 deployment on federal active duty or is discharged or as soon as
22 possible thereafter. The term "service member" shall mean
23 members of the New Jersey National Guard and members of the
24 United States Armed Forces, or a Reserve component thereof, when
25 the information on each member is made available to the
26 department.

27 (bb) Develop and coordinate a volunteer-based program
28 comprised of former servicemembers to assist and mentor veterans
29 who become involved with the criminal justice system, while
30 criminal proceedings are pending and afterward, in accessing
31 assistance to resolve the underlying problems that led or contributed
32 to the veteran's involvement with the criminal justice system
33 including, but not limited to, offering support and guidance,
34 securing housing, employment linkages, job training, education,
35 transportation, disability compensation claims, discharge status,
36 health care and other linkages available at the local, State and
37 federal level that can ease the challenge of reentry into civilian life.
38 In addition, the Adjutant General shall develop a registry of
39 volunteer mentors and make the registry available pursuant to
40 P.L.2017, c.42 (C.2C:43-23 et al.).

41 (cc) Prepare and disseminate a directory of Veterans Diversion
42 Resource Program entities currently available within New Jersey
43 pursuant to P.L.2017, c.42 (C.2C:43-23 et al.).

44 (dd) Create a comprehensive public webpage for Gold Star
45 family members that includes, but is not limited to, the following
46 information: State benefits; State and county liaisons; a list of
47 service members from New Jersey killed in action; links to other
48 Gold Star family organizations; and such other information and

resources as the Adjutant General deems necessary and beneficial to a Gold Star family member. A "Gold Star family member" means the spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood, or by adoption.

(ee) Identify each New Jersey resident who enrolls in the United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, United States Coast Guard Academy, United States Merchant Marine Academy, or United States Air Force Academy, and issue a New Jersey State flag to that individual.

(cf: P.L.2017, c.58, s.1)

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill requires the Adjutant General to identify each New Jersey resident who enrolls in the United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, United States Coast Guard Academy, United States Merchant Marine Academy, or United States Air Force Academy, and issue a New Jersey State flag to that individual.

This bill honors each resident of New Jersey who enrolls in a federal service academy for that individual's commitment to the defense of New Jersey and the United States of America. These distinguished New Jersey residents have dedicated themselves to a life of military service, and have each demonstrated superior academic ability and integrity.

Requires Adjutant General of DMVA to issue State flag to resident enrolling in federal service academy.