

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 500, *approved January 21, 2020*  
Assembly, No. 5344

1   **AN ACT** concerning acceptable proof of veteran status for State and  
2       local programs and amending various parts of the statutory law.

3  
4       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
7       1. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.275 (C.13:1L-12.1) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9       1. a. (1) The department shall not charge an admission fee for  
10 entrance into a State park or forest by any veteran during an event  
11 held by a veterans' organization. In addition, the department shall  
12 not charge a facilities fee of any kind to any veterans' organization  
13 using a State park or forest for an event.

14       (2) The department shall not charge an admission fee or  
15 facilities fee of any kind for entrance into a State park or forest by a  
16 person holding a driver's license or identification card with a Gold  
17 Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013,  
18 c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3),  
19 respectively.

20       b. As used in this section:

21       "Veteran" means any resident of the State now or hereafter who  
22 has been **【honorably】** discharged honorably or **【released】** under  
23 general honorable **【circumstances from active service】** conditions  
24 in any branch of the **【armed forces】** Armed Forces of the United  
25 States, or a Reserve component thereof, or the National Guard of  
26 this State or another state as defined in section 1 of P.L.1963, c.109  
27 (C.38A:1-1), or any honorably discharged member of the American  
28 Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is declared  
29 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for  
30 federal veterans' benefits; and

31       "Veterans' organization" means the American Legion, Veterans  
32 of Foreign Wars, or other veterans' organizations chartered under  
33 federal law, or any service foundation of such an organization  
34 recognized in its bylaws.

35       (cf. P.L.2017, c.173, s.3)

36  
37       2. Section 4 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-4) is amended to read  
38 as follows:

39       4. a. The Workforce Development Partnership Program is  
40 hereby established in the Department of Labor and Workforce  
41 Development and shall be administered by the Commissioner of  
42 Labor and Workforce Development. The purpose of the program is

**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 to provide qualified displaced, disadvantaged and employed  
2 workers with the employment and training services most likely to  
3 enable the individual to obtain employment providing self-  
4 sufficiency for the individual and also to provide the greatest  
5 opportunity for long-range career advancement with high levels of  
6 productivity and earning power. To implement that purpose, the  
7 program shall provide those services by means of training grants or  
8 customized training services in coordination with funding for the  
9 services from federal or other sources. The commissioner is  
10 authorized to expend moneys from the Workforce Development  
11 Partnership Fund to provide the training grants or customized  
12 training services and provide for each of the following:

13 (1) The cost of counseling required pursuant to section 7 of  
14 P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-7), to the extent that adequate funding for  
15 counseling is not available from federal or other sources;

16 (2) Reasonable administrative costs, which shall not exceed  
17 **【10%】** 10 percent of the revenues collected pursuant to section 2 of  
18 P.L.1992, c.44 (C.34:15D-13) during any fiscal year ending before  
19 July 1, 2001, except for additional start-up administrative costs  
20 approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget  
21 during the first year of the program's operation;

22 (3) Reasonable costs, which shall not exceed **【0.5%】** 0.5  
23 percent of the revenues collected pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1992,  
24 c.44 (C.34:15D-13) during any fiscal year ending before July 1,  
25 2001, as required by the State Employment and Training  
26 Commission to design criteria and conduct an annual evaluation of  
27 the program; and

28 (4) The cost of reimbursement to individuals for excess  
29 contributions pursuant to section 6 of P.L.1992, c.44 (C.34:15D-  
30 17).

31 b. Not more than **【10%】** 10 percent of the moneys received by  
32 any service provider pursuant to this act shall be expended on  
33 anything other than direct costs to the provider of providing the  
34 employment and training services, which direct costs shall not  
35 include any administrative or overhead expense of the provider.

36 c. Training and employment services or other workforce  
37 investment services shall be provided to a worker who receives  
38 counseling pursuant to section 7 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-7)  
39 only if the counselor who evaluates the worker pursuant to that  
40 section determines that the worker can reasonably be expected to  
41 successfully complete the training and instruction identified in the  
42 Employability Development Plan developed pursuant to that section  
43 for the worker.

44 d. All occupational training provided under this act:

45 (1) Shall be training which is likely to substantially enhance the  
46 individual's marketable skills and earning power; and

47 (2) Shall be training for a labor demand occupation, except for:

- 1 (a) Customized training provided to the present employees of a  
2 business which the commissioner deems to be in need of the  
3 training to prevent job loss caused by obsolete skills, technological  
4 change or national or global competition; or
- 5 (b) Customized training provided to employees at a facility  
6 which is being relocated from another state into New Jersey; or
- 7 (c) Entrepreneurial training and technical assistance supported  
8 by training grants provided pursuant to subsection b. of section 6 of  
9 P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-6).
- 10 e. During any fiscal year ending before July 1, 2001, not less  
11 than ~~【25%】~~ 25 percent of the total revenues dedicated to the  
12 program during any one fiscal year shall be reserved to provide  
13 employment and training services for qualified displaced workers;  
14 not less than six percent of the total revenues dedicated to the  
15 program during any one fiscal year shall be reserved to provide  
16 employment and training services for qualified disadvantaged  
17 workers; not less than ~~【45%】~~ 45 percent of the total revenues  
18 dedicated to the program during any one fiscal year shall be  
19 reserved for and appropriated to the Office of Customized Training;  
20 not less than ~~【3%】~~ three percent of the total revenues dedicated to  
21 the program during any one fiscal year shall be reserved for  
22 occupational safety and health training; and ~~【5%】~~ five percent of  
23 the total revenues dedicated to the program during any one fiscal  
24 year shall be reserved for and appropriated to the Youth Transitions  
25 to Work Partnership created pursuant to P.L.1993, c.268 (C.34:15E-  
26 1 et seq.).
- 27 f. Funds available under the program shall not be used for  
28 activities which induce, encourage or assist: any displacement of  
29 currently employed workers by trainees, including partial  
30 displacement by means such as reduced hours of currently  
31 employed workers; any replacement of laid off workers by trainees;  
32 or any relocation of operations resulting in a loss of employment at  
33 a previous workplace located in the State.
- 34 g. On-the-job training shall not be funded by the program for  
35 any employment found by the commissioner to be of a level of skill  
36 and complexity too low to merit training. The duration of on-the-  
37 job training funded by the program for any worker shall not exceed  
38 the duration indicated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics'  
39 Occupational Information Network, or "O\*NET," for the  
40 occupation for which the training is provided and shall in no case  
41 exceed 26 weeks. The department shall set the duration of on-the-  
42 job training for a worker for less than the indicated maximum, when  
43 training for the maximum duration is not warranted because of the  
44 level of the individual's previous training, education or work  
45 experience. On-the-job training shall not be funded by the program  
46 unless it is accompanied, concurrently or otherwise, by whatever  
47 amount of classroom-based or equivalent occupational training,  
48 remedial instruction or both, is deemed appropriate for the worker

1 by the commissioner. On-the-job training shall not be funded by  
2 the program unless the trainee is provided benefits, pay and  
3 working conditions at a level and extent not less than the benefits  
4 and working conditions of other trainees or employees of the  
5 trainee's employer with comparable skills, responsibilities,  
6 experience and seniority.

7 h. Employment and training services funded by the program  
8 shall not replace, supplant, compete with or duplicate in any way  
9 approved apprenticeship programs.

10 i. No activities funded by the program shall impair existing  
11 contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements, except  
12 that activities which would be inconsistent with the terms of a  
13 collective bargaining agreement may be undertaken with the written  
14 concurrence of the collective bargaining unit and employer who are  
15 parties to the agreement.

16 j. All staff who are hired and supported by moneys from the  
17 Workforce Development Partnership Fund, including any of those  
18 staff located at any One Stop Career Center, but not including any  
19 staff of a service provider providing employment and training  
20 services supported by a customized training grant pursuant to  
21 section 5 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-5) or an individual training  
22 grant pursuant to section 6 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-6), shall be  
23 hired and employed by the State pursuant to Title 11A, Civil  
24 Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, be hired and employed by a  
25 political subdivision of the State, or be qualified staff hired and  
26 employed by a non-profit organization which began functioning as  
27 the One Stop Career Center operator with the written consent of the  
28 chief elected official and the commissioner prior to the effective  
29 date of P.L.2004, c.39 (C.34:1A-1.2 et al.), or be qualified staff  
30 hired and employed by an approved community-based or faith-  
31 based organization to provide services at the level of staffing  
32 provided in an agreement entered into by the organization before  
33 the effective date of P.L.2004, c.39 (C.34:1A-1.2 et al.).

34 k. Employers in the State who apply for grants for training and  
35 employment services or other workforce investment services for  
36 their employees in the State shall be evaluated by the commissioner  
37 and preference shall be given to those employers who:

38 (1) provide equipment, supplies, or services to military bases  
39 and installations pursuant to a procurement or military contract with  
40 the United States Department of Defense, the United States  
41 Department of Veterans Affairs, or any branch of the United States  
42 Armed Forces;

43 (2) are engaged in one or more of the following fields or  
44 industries: science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or  
45 advanced manufacturing within these fields or industries; or

46 (3) intend to train veterans.

47 Pursuant to this paragraph, "veteran" means **【a person】** any  
48 resident of the State now or hereafter who has served in **【the Army,**

1 Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard】 any branch of the Armed  
2 Forces of the United States or a Reserve component thereof or the  
3 National Guard of this State or another state as defined in section 1  
4 of P.L.1963, c.109 (C.38A:1-1), and has been 【honorably】  
5 discharged honorably or 【released】 under general honorable  
6 conditions 【other than dishonorable】 from that service.  
7 (cf. P.L.2017, c.22, s.1)

8  
9 3. Section 5 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-5) is amended to read  
10 as follows:

11 5. a. There is hereby established, as part of the Workforce  
12 Development Partnership Program, the Office of Customized  
13 Training. Moneys allocated to the office from the fund shall be used  
14 to provide employment and training services to eligible applicants  
15 approved by the commissioner.

16 b. An applicant shall be eligible for customized training  
17 services if it is one of the following:

18 (1) An individual employer that seeks the customized training  
19 services to create, upgrade or retain jobs in a labor demand  
20 occupation;

21 (2) An individual employer that seeks customized training  
22 services to upgrade or retain jobs in an occupation which is not a  
23 labor demand occupation, if the commissioner determines that the  
24 services are necessary to prevent the likely loss of the jobs or that  
25 the services are being provided to employees at a facility which is  
26 being relocated from another state into New Jersey;

27 (3) An employer organization, labor organization or community-  
28 based or faith-based organization seeking the customized training  
29 services to provide training in labor demand occupations in a  
30 particular industry;

31 (4) A consortium made up of one or more educational  
32 institutions and one or more eligible individual employers or labor,  
33 employer or community-based or faith-based organizations that  
34 seeks the customized training services to provide training in labor  
35 demand occupations in a particular industry;

36 (5) An individual employer who provides equipment, supplies,  
37 or services to military bases and installations pursuant to a  
38 procurement or military contract with the United States Department  
39 of Defense, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or  
40 any branch of the United States Armed Forces;

41 (6) An individual employer who is engaged in one or more of  
42 the following fields or industries: science, technology, engineering,  
43 mathematics, or advanced manufacturing within these fields or  
44 industries; or

45 (7) An individual employer who intends to train veterans. For  
46 the purposes of this subparagraph, a "veteran" is 【a person】 any  
47 resident of the State now or hereafter who has served in 【the Army,

1 Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard】 any branch of the Armed  
2 Forces of the United States or a Reserve component thereof or the  
3 National Guard of this State or another state as defined in section 1  
4 of P.L.1963, c.109 (C.38A:1-1), and has been 【honorably】  
5 discharged honorably or 【released】 under general honorable  
6 conditions 【other than dishonorable】 from that service.

7 c. Each applicant seeking funding for customized training  
8 services shall submit an application to the commissioner in a form  
9 and manner prescribed in regulations adopted by the commissioner.  
10 The application shall be accompanied by a business plan of each  
11 employer which will receive customized training services if the  
12 application is approved. The business plan shall include:

13 (1) A justification of the need for the services and funding from  
14 the office, including information sufficient to demonstrate to the  
15 satisfaction of the commissioner that the applicant will provide  
16 significantly less of the services if the requested funding is not  
17 provided by the office;

18 (2) A comprehensive long-term human resource development  
19 plan which:

20 (a) Extends significantly beyond the period of time in which the  
21 services are funded by the office;

22 (b) Significantly enhances the productivity and competitiveness  
23 of the employer operations located in the State and the employment  
24 security of workers employed by the employer in the State; and

25 (c) States the number of current or newly-hired workers who  
26 will be trained under the grant and the pay levels of jobs which will  
27 be created or retained for those workers as a result of the funding  
28 and the plan.

29 (3) Evidence, if the training sought is for an occupation which is  
30 not a labor demand occupation, that the customized training  
31 services are needed to prevent job loss caused by obsolete skills,  
32 technological change or national or global competition or that the  
33 services are being provided to employees at a facility which is  
34 being relocated from another state into New Jersey;

35 (4) Information demonstrating that most of the individuals  
36 receiving the services will be trained primarily for work in the  
37 direct production of goods or services;

38 (5) A commitment to provide the information needed by the  
39 commissioner to evaluate the success of the funding and the plan in  
40 creating and retaining jobs, to assure compliance with the  
41 provisions of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-1 et seq.); and

42 (6) Any other information or commitments which the  
43 commissioner deems appropriate to assure compliance with the  
44 provisions of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-1 et seq.).

45 The commissioner may provide whatever assistance he deems  
46 appropriate in the preparation of the application and business plan,  
47 which may include labor market information, projections of

1 occupational demand and information and advice on alternative  
2 training and instruction strategies.

3 d. Each employer that receives a grant for customized training  
4 services shall contribute a minimum of **【50%】** 50 percent of the  
5 total cost of the customized training services, except that the  
6 commissioner shall set a higher or lower minimum contribution by  
7 an employer, if warranted by the size and economic resources of the  
8 employer or other factors deemed appropriate by the commissioner,  
9 and except that, for individuals hired by the employer through a  
10 One Stop Career Center who receive classroom training under the  
11 grant and were recipients of benefits under the Work First New  
12 Jersey program at any time during the 12 months preceding the date  
13 of employment, the employer shall be eligible for reimbursement of  
14 up to **【50%】** 50 percent of wages paid to the individual during the  
15 classroom training in addition to reimbursement for tuition and  
16 other direct costs of the training as determined to be appropriate by  
17 the office, and provided, further, that no individual shall be hired or  
18 placed in a manner which results in a violation of the restrictions of  
19 subsection f. of section 4 of P.L.1992, c.43 (C.34:15D-4) against  
20 displacing current employees.

21 e. Each employer receiving a grant for customized training  
22 services shall hire or retain in permanent employment each worker  
23 who successfully completes the training and instruction provided  
24 under the customized training. The employer shall be entitled to  
25 select the qualified employed, disadvantaged or displaced workers  
26 who will participate in the customized training, except that if any  
27 collective bargaining unit represents a qualified employed worker,  
28 the selection shall be conducted in a manner acceptable to both the  
29 employer and the collective bargaining unit. The commissioner  
30 shall provide for the withholding, for a time period he deems  
31 appropriate, of whatever portion he deems appropriate of program  
32 funding as a final payment for customized training services,  
33 contingent upon the hiring and retention of a program completer as  
34 required pursuant to this section. If an employer receiving a grant  
35 for customized training services pursuant to this section relocates or  
36 outsources any or all of the jobs out of the State for which the  
37 customized training services were provided under the grant within  
38 three years following the end date of the customized contract, the  
39 employer shall, if all of the jobs are relocated or outsourced, return  
40 all of the moneys provided to the employer by the State for  
41 customized training services, or, if only a portion of the jobs are  
42 relocated or outsourced, return a part of the moneys, deemed by the  
43 commissioner to be appropriate and proportional to the portion of  
44 the jobs relocated or outsourced, and the returned amount shall be  
45 deposited into the Workforce Development Partnership Fund.

46 f. The customized training services provided to an approved  
47 applicant may include any combination of employment and training  
48 services or any single employment and training service approved by

1 the commissioner, including remedial instruction provided to  
2 upgrade workplace literacy. Each service may be provided by a  
3 separate approved service provider. No training or employment  
4 service shall be funded through a customized training grant, unless  
5 the service is provided directly by an employer or is provided by an  
6 approved service provider. An employer who directly provides  
7 training and employment services to his own employees shall not be  
8 regarded as a service provider and shall not be subject to any  
9 requirement to obtain approval by the State as a service provider,  
10 including the requirements of section 13 of P.L.2005, c.354  
11 (C.34:15C-10.1) to be approved as a qualifying school or the  
12 requirements of section 14 of P.L.2005, c.354 (C.34:15C-10.2) to  
13 be included on the State Eligible Training Provider List.

14 g. Customized training services shall include any remedial  
15 instruction determined necessary pursuant to section 7 of this act.  
16 Applications for customized training services shall include  
17 estimates of the total need for remedial instruction determined in a  
18 manner deemed appropriate by the commissioner.

19 h. Any business seeking customized training services shall, in  
20 the manner prescribed by the commissioner, participate in the  
21 development of a plan to provide the services. Any business  
22 seeking customized training services for workers represented by a  
23 collective bargaining unit shall notify the collective bargaining unit  
24 and permit it to participate in developing the plan. No customized  
25 training services shall be provided to a business employing workers  
26 represented by a collective bargaining unit without the written  
27 consent of both the business and the collective bargaining unit.

28 i. Any business receiving customized training services shall be  
29 responsible for providing workers' compensation coverage for any  
30 worker participating in the customized training.

31 j. The commissioner shall establish an annual goal that **[15%]**  
32 15 percent or more of the jobs to be created or retained in  
33 connection with training supported by grants from the office shall  
34 be jobs provided to individuals who were recipients of benefits  
35 under the Work First New Jersey program at any time during the 12  
36 months prior to being placed in the jobs. The means to attain the  
37 goal shall include coordinated efforts between the office and One  
38 Stop Career Centers to prepare recipients for employment and make  
39 them available to employers, but shall not include any policy which  
40 may penalize employers or discourage employers from using  
41 customized training service provided by the office.

42 (cf. P.L.2017, c.22, s.2)

43

44 4. Section 1 of P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) is amended to  
45 read as follows:

46 1. a. (1) In addition to the requirements for the form and  
47 content of a motor vehicle driver's license under R.S.39:3-10 and a  
48 probationary license issued under section 4 of P.L.1950, c.127



1 (C.39:3-13.4), the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor  
2 Vehicle Commission shall, upon submission of satisfactory proof,  
3 designate on an initial license, renewal license, or probationary  
4 license, as appropriate, that the license holder is a veteran of the  
5 Armed Forces of the United States of America. The designation of  
6 veteran status on an initial license, renewal license, or probationary  
7 license shall not be deemed sufficient valid proof of veteran status  
8 for official governmental purposes when any other statute, or any  
9 regulation or other directive of a governmental entity, requires  
10 documentation of veteran status.

11 (2) In addition to the requirements for the form and content of a  
12 motor vehicle driver's license under R.S.39:3-10 and a probationary  
13 license issued under section 4 of P.L.1950, c.127 (C.39:3-13.4), the  
14 Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission  
15 shall, upon submission of satisfactory proof, designate on an initial  
16 license, renewal license, or probationary license, as appropriate,  
17 that the license holder is a Gold Star Family member. The  
18 commission shall provide to the Department of Military and  
19 Veterans' Affairs personal identifying information of any person  
20 issued a driver's license with a Gold Star Family designation  
21 pursuant to this section.

22 b. For the purpose of this section:

23 "Gold Star Family member" means a spouse, domestic partner,  
24 partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian,  
25 or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by  
26 adoption, of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or  
27 National Guard, who lost his or her life while on active duty for the  
28 United States.

29 "Veteran" means **【**a person who has been honorably discharged  
30 from the active military service of the United States**】** any resident  
31 of the State now or hereafter who has been discharged honorably or  
32 under general honorable conditions in any branch of the Armed  
33 Forces of the United States, or a Reserve component thereof, or the  
34 National Guard of this State or another state as defined in section 1  
35 of P.L.1963, c.109 (C.38A:1-1).

36 "Satisfactory proof" means, in the case of a veteran, **【**a copy of  
37 form**】** the applicant's DD-214, DD-215, or DD-256 form as issued  
38 by the federal government, NGB-22 or other approved separation  
39 forms as outlined by all branches of the Armed Forces, or federal  
40 activation orders showing service under Title 10, section 672 or  
41 section 12301, of the United States Code, or a county-issued  
42 veteran identification card **【**only if issuance of the card requires a  
43 copy of form DD-214 discharge papers or approved separation  
44 forms as outlined by all branches of the military and duly recorded  
45 by the county clerk's office.**】** pursuant to P.L.2012, c.30 (40A:9-  
46 78.1 et seq.), or a veteran identification card as issued by the United  
47 States Department of Veterans Affairs under the "Veterans

1 Identification Card Act of 2015,” (38 U.S.C. 5706.) In the case of a  
2 Gold Star Family member, satisfactory proof includes any or all of  
3 the following:

4 (1) a certification from the Department of New Jersey of  
5 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other organization formed  
6 for the support of family members of members of the Armed Forces  
7 of the United States or National Guard, who lost their lives while on  
8 active duty for the United States, that the applicant is either the  
9 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother,  
10 sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the  
11 whole or half blood or by adoption, of a member of the armed  
12 forces or National Guard who died while on active duty for the  
13 United States; or

14 (2) (a) documentation deemed acceptable by the Adjutant  
15 General, including, but not limited to, a federal DD Form 1300,  
16 Report of Casualty, or a federal DD Form 2064, Certificate of  
17 Death Overseas, which identifies the member of the Armed Forces  
18 of the United States or National Guard who died while on active  
19 duty for the United States; and

20 (b) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the  
21 service member.

22 (cf. P.L.2017, c.175, s.5)

23  
24 5. Section 1 of P.L.2017, c.193 (C.39:3-27.148) is amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 1. a. Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the  
27 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue Military Veteran  
28 motorcycle license plates for any motorcycle owned or leased and  
29 registered in this State. In addition to the registration number and  
30 other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, the  
31 license plate shall display the words, "U.S. Vet" along with an  
32 image or other pictorial representation of the flag of the United  
33 States of America. The chief administrator, in consultation with the  
34 Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans'  
35 Affairs, shall select the design of the Military Veteran motorcycle  
36 license plates. The Military Veteran motorcycle license plates shall  
37 be subject to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised  
38 Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

39 b. Application for issuance of a Military Veteran motorcycle  
40 license plate shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and  
41 in a manner prescribed by the chief administrator. The application  
42 shall include proof satisfactory to the chief administrator that the  
43 applicant **【is a military veteran and】** has been **【honorably】**  
44 discharged honorably or under general honorable conditions in any  
45 branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, or a Reserve  
46 component thereof, or the National Guard of this State or another  
47 state as defined in section 1 of P.L.1963, c.109 (C.38A:1-1), as  
48 certified on the applicant's DD-214, DD-215, or DD-256 form as

1 issued by the federal government, NGB-22 or other approved  
2 separation forms as outlined by all branches of the Armed Forces, a  
3 county-issued veteran identification card pursuant to P.L.2012, c.30  
4 (40A:9-78.1 et seq.), or a veteran identification card as issued by  
5 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs under the  
6 “Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015,” (38 U.S.C. 5706;) or on  
7 a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. In order to  
8 be deemed complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee  
9 of \$50, payable to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission,  
10 which shall be in addition to the fee otherwise prescribed by law for  
11 the registration of a motorcycle. The chief administrator shall  
12 collect annually, subsequent to the year of issuance of the Military  
13 Veteran motorcycle license plate, a \$10 fee for the license plate in  
14 addition to the fee otherwise prescribed by law for the registration  
15 of a motorcycle. The additional fees required by this subsection  
16 shall be deposited in the "Military Veteran Motorcycle License  
17 Plate Fund" created pursuant to subsection c. of this section.

18 The surviving spouse of a deceased veteran, who is eligible to  
19 operate a motorcycle in this State under the provisions of R.S.39:3-  
20 10, may retain the Military Veteran motorcycle license plates  
21 obtained by the deceased spouse pursuant to this section for display  
22 on a motorcycle owned or leased by the surviving spouse.

23 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special  
24 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Military Veteran Motorcycle  
25 License Plate Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the  
26 amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to  
27 subsection b. of this section, less the amounts necessary to  
28 reimburse the commission for administrative costs pursuant to  
29 subsection d. of this section. Monies deposited in the fund shall be  
30 appropriated annually to the Department of Military and Veterans'  
31 Affairs and shall be used to support programs benefiting military  
32 veterans. Monies deposited in the fund shall be held in interest-  
33 bearing accounts in a public depository as defined pursuant to  
34 section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and may be invested or  
35 reinvested in securities approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or  
36 other income earned on monies deposited into the fund, and any  
37 monies which may be appropriated or otherwise become available  
38 for the purposes of the fund, shall be credited to and deposited in  
39 the fund for use as set forth in P.L.2017, c.193 (C.39:3-27.148 et  
40 seq.).

41 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional fees collected pursuant  
42 to subsection b. of this section into the "Military Veteran  
43 Motorcycle License Plate Fund," amounts thereof as are necessary  
44 shall be used to reimburse the commission for all costs reasonably  
45 and actually incurred, as stipulated by the chief administrator, for:

46 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the  
47 availability of the Military Veteran motorcycle license plates; and

1 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially  
2 necessary to implement the Military Veteran motorcycle license  
3 plate program in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

4 The chief administrator shall annually certify to the State  
5 Treasurer the average cost per license plate incurred in the  
6 immediately preceding year by the commission in producing,  
7 issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of the Military  
8 Veteran motorcycle license plates. The annual certification of the  
9 average cost per license plate shall be approved by the Joint Budget  
10 Oversight Committee, or its successor.

11 In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by  
12 the chief administrator and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight  
13 Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee  
14 established in subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal  
15 years, the chief administrator may discontinue the issuance of  
16 Military Veteran motorcycle license plates.

17 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the  
18 opportunity to obtain Military Veteran motorcycle license plates by  
19 publicizing the availability of the license plates on the commission's  
20 website. The Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, and any  
21 other individual or entity designated by the department, may  
22 publicize the availability of the Military Veteran motorcycle license  
23 plates in any manner that the department deems appropriate.

24 f. The chief administrator and adjutant general shall develop  
25 and enter into an inter-departmental memorandum of agreement  
26 setting forth the procedures to be followed in carrying out their  
27 respective responsibilities under P.L.2017, c.193 (C.39:3-27.148 et  
28 seq.).

29 g. The adjutant general shall appoint a representative who shall  
30 act as a liaison between the Department of Military and Veterans'  
31 Affairs and the commission. The liaison shall represent the  
32 department in any and all communications with the commission  
33 regarding the Military Veteran motorcycle license plates established  
34 by P.L.2017, c.193 (C.39:3-27.148 et seq.).

35 (cf. P.L.2017, c.193, s.1)

36  
37 6. Section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.3) is amended to read  
38 as follows:

39 2. a. (1) The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall  
40 issue an identification card to any resident of the State who is 14  
41 years of age or older and who is not the holder of a valid permit or  
42 basic driver's license. The identification card shall attest to the true  
43 name, correct age, and veteran status, upon submission of  
44 satisfactory proof, by any veteran, and shall contain other  
45 identifying data as certified by the applicant for such identification  
46 card. Every application for an identification card shall be signed  
47 and verified by the applicant and shall be accompanied by the  
48 written consent of at least one parent or the person's legal guardian

1 if the person is under 17 years of age and shall be supported by such  
2 documentary evidence of the age, identity, and veteran status, or  
3 blindness, or disability of such person as the chief administrator  
4 may require. In addition to requiring an applicant for an  
5 identification card to submit satisfactory proof of identity, age, and,  
6 if appropriate, veteran status, the chief administrator also shall  
7 require the applicant to provide, as a condition for obtaining the  
8 card, satisfactory proof that the applicant's presence in the United  
9 States is authorized under federal law. If the chief administrator  
10 has reasonable cause to suspect that any document presented by an  
11 applicant as proof of identity, age, veteran status, or legal residency  
12 is altered, false or otherwise invalid, the chief administrator shall  
13 refuse to grant the identification card until such time as the  
14 document may be verified by the issuing agency to the chief  
15 administrator's satisfaction.

16 (2) In addition to the requirements for the form and content of  
17 an identification card pursuant to this section, the Chief  
18 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall,  
19 upon submission of satisfactory proof, designate on an  
20 identification card that the card holder is a Gold Star Family  
21 member. The commission shall provide to the Department of  
22 Military and Veterans' Affairs personal identifying information for  
23 any person issued an identification card with a Gold Star Family  
24 designation pursuant to this section.

25 b. The designation of veteran status on an identification card  
26 shall not be deemed sufficient valid proof of veteran status for  
27 official governmental purposes when any other statute, or any  
28 regulation or other directive of a governmental entity, requires  
29 documentation of veteran status.

30 c. For the purpose of this section:

31 "Gold Star Family member" means a spouse, domestic partner,  
32 partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal guardian,  
33 or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood or by  
34 adoption, of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or  
35 National Guard, who lost his or her life while on active duty for the  
36 United States.

37 "Veteran" means **【a person who has been honorably discharged**  
38 **from the active military service of the United States】** any resident  
39 of the State now or hereafter who has been discharged honorably or  
40 under general honorable conditions in any branch of the Armed  
41 Forces of the United States, or a Reserve component thereof, or the  
42 National Guard of this State or another state as defined in section 1  
43 of P.L.1963, c.109 (C.38A:1-1); and

44 "Satisfactory proof" means, in the case of a veteran, **【a copy of**  
45 **form】** the applicant's DD-214, DD-215, or DD-256 form as issued  
46 by the federal government, or NGB-22 or other approved separation  
47 forms as outlined by all branches of the Armed Forces, or federal  
48 activation orders showing service under Title 10, section 672 or

1 section 12301, of the United States Code, or a county-issued  
2 veteran identification card [only if issuance of the card requires a  
3 copy of form DD-214 discharge papers or approved separation  
4 forms as outlined by all branches of the military and duly recorded  
5 by the county clerk's office] pursuant to P.L.2012, c.30 (C.40A:9-  
6 78.1 et seq.), or a veteran identification card as issued by the United  
7 States Department of Veterans Affairs under the “Veterans  
8 Identification Card Act of 2015,” (38 U.S.C. 5706). In the case of a  
9 Gold Star Family member, satisfactory proof includes any or all of  
10 the following:

11 (1) a certification from the Department of New Jersey of  
12 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other organization formed  
13 for the support of family members of members of the Armed Forces  
14 of the United States or National Guard, who lost their lives while on  
15 active duty for the United States, that the applicant is either the  
16 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother,  
17 sister, child, legal guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the  
18 whole or half blood or by adoption, of a member of the armed  
19 forces or National Guard who died while on active duty for the  
20 United States; or

21 (2) (a) documentation deemed acceptable by the Adjutant  
22 General, including, but not limited to, a federal DD Form 1300,  
23 Report of Casualty, or a federal DD Form 2064, Certificate of  
24 Death Overseas, which identifies the member of the Armed Forces  
25 of the United States or National Guard who died while on active  
26 duty for the United States; and

27 (b) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the  
28 service member.

29 (cf. P.L.2017, c.175, s.7)

30

31 7. Section 1 of P.L.1955, c.49 (C.40:61-22.20) is amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 1. a. The governing body of any municipality bordering on the  
34 Atlantic Ocean, tidal water bays or rivers which owns or shall  
35 acquire, by any deed of dedication or otherwise, lands bordering on  
36 the ocean, tidal water bays or rivers, or easement rights therein, for  
37 a place of resort for public health and recreation and for other  
38 public purposes shall have the exclusive control, government and  
39 care thereof and of any boardwalk, bathing and recreational  
40 facilities, safeguards and equipment, now or hereafter constructed  
41 or provided thereon, and may, by ordinance, make and enforce rules  
42 and regulations for the government and policing of such lands,  
43 boardwalk, bathing facilities, safeguards and equipment; provided,  
44 that such power of control, government, care and policing shall not  
45 be construed in any manner to exclude or interfere with the  
46 operation of any State law or authority with respect to such lands,  
47 property and facilities. Any such municipality may, in order to  
48 provide funds to improve, maintain and police the same and to

1 protect the same from erosion, encroachment and damage by sea or  
2 otherwise, and to provide facilities and safeguards for public  
3 bathing and recreation, including the employment of lifeguards, by  
4 ordinance, make and enforce rules and regulations for the  
5 government, use, maintenance and policing thereof and provide for  
6 the charging and collecting of reasonable fees for the registration of  
7 persons using said lands and bathing facilities, for access to the  
8 beach and bathing and recreational grounds so provided and for the  
9 use of the bathing and recreational facilities, but no such fees shall  
10 be charged or collected from children under the age of 12 years.

11 b. A municipality may by ordinance provide that no fees, or  
12 reduced fees, shall be charged to:

13 (1) persons 65 or more years of age;

14 (2) persons who meet the disability criteria for disability  
15 benefits under Title II of the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
16 s.401 et seq.);

17 (3) persons in active military service in any of the Armed Forces  
18 of the United States and to their spouse or dependent children over  
19 the age of 12 years;

20 (4) persons who are active members of the New Jersey National  
21 Guard who have completed Initial Active Duty Training and to their  
22 spouse or dependent children over the age of 12 years. As used in  
23 this paragraph, "Initial Active Duty Training" means Basic Military  
24 Training, for members of the New Jersey Air National Guard, and  
25 Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, for  
26 members of the New Jersey Army National Guard;

27 (5) persons who have served in any of the Armed Forces of the  
28 United States and who were discharged or released therefrom under  
29 conditions other than dishonorable and who either have served at  
30 least 90 days in active duty or have been discharged or released  
31 from active duty by reason of a service-incurred injury or disability.  
32 The Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military  
33 and Veterans' Affairs shall promulgate rules and regulations  
34 pertaining to veteran eligibility under this paragraph; and

35 (6) persons holding a driver's license or identification card with  
36 a Gold Star Family designation issued pursuant to section 1 of  
37 P.L.2013, c.165 (C.39:3-10f6) or section 2 of P.L.1980, c.47  
38 (C.39:3-29.3), respectively.

39 c. A municipality providing for no fees or reduced fees  
40 pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), (5), or (6) of subsection b. of this  
41 section shall track, in a manner deemed appropriate by the  
42 governing body of the municipality, the number of persons who  
43 qualify under the provisions of those paragraphs.

44 d. A person who qualifies for free access to beaches and  
45 bathing and recreational grounds and free use of bathing and  
46 recreational facilities pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), (5), or (6) of  
47 subsection b. of this section may, in lieu of obtaining and presenting  
48 a municipal beach tag or similar admission pass to gain such access

1 and use, present a **valid military identification card, form** DD-  
2 214, DD-215, or DD-256 form as issued by the federal government,  
3 NGB-22 or other approved separation forms as outlined by all  
4 branches of the Armed Forces, a county-issued veteran  
5 identification card pursuant to P.L.2012, c.30 (40A:9-78.1 et seq.),  
6 a veteran identification card as issued by the United States  
7 Department of Veterans Affairs under the “Veterans Identification  
8 Card Act of 2015,” (38 U.S.C. 5706,) or similar document, or State  
9 driver's license or identification card indicating that the holder is a  
10 veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States or a Gold Star  
11 Family member.

12 (cf. P.L.2017, c.175, s.8)

13  
14 8. Section 2 of P.L.2012, c.30 (C.40A:9-78.2) is amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 2. As used in this act, P.L.2012, c.30 (C.40A:9-78.1 et seq.),  
17 "veteran" means **a person** any resident of this State now or  
18 hereafter who has served in **the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines**  
19 **or Coast Guard** any branch of the Armed Forces of the United  
20 States or a Reserve component thereof or the National Guard of this  
21 State or another State as defined in section 1 of P.L.1963, c.109  
22 (C.38A:1-1), and has been **honorably** discharged honorably or  
23 **released** under general honorable conditions **other than**  
24 **dishonorable** from such service.

25 (cf. P.L.2017, c.292, s.1)

26  
27 9. Section 3 of P.L.2012, c.30 (C.40A:9-78.3) is amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 3. A county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as  
30 appropriate, may establish a veteran identification card program for  
31 the sole purpose of identifying the holder as a veteran when such  
32 identification is required to receive discounts or other courtesies  
33 extended to military veterans, or to prove status as a veteran or  
34 character of service to receive benefits afforded veterans under the  
35 laws of this State, if eligible.

36 (cf. P.L.2012, c.30, s.3)

37  
38 10. Section 4 of P.L.2012, c.30 (C.40A:9-78.4) is amended to  
39 read as follows:

40 4. a. When such a program has been authorized, the county  
41 clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate, shall issue  
42 an identification card to any veteran who is a resident of the county  
43 **and who does not hold an identification card issued by the federal**  
44 **government that identifies the person as a veteran**. The veteran  
45 identification card shall bear the true name, branch of the military  
46 in which the veteran served, date of card issuance, **separation form**  
47 **submitted,** and other identifying information as certified by the



1 applicant for such veteran identification card. Every application for  
 2 a veteran identification card shall be signed and certified by the  
 3 applicant and shall be supported by such documentary evidence as  
 4 the county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate,  
 5 may require.

6 b. **【The】** Any of the following shall constitute documentary  
 7 evidence required by subsection a. of this section **【shall include】** :  
 8 the applicant's DD-214, DD-215, or DD-256 form as issued by the  
 9 federal government, an NGB-22 or other approved separation forms  
 10 as outlined by all branches of the 【military】 Armed Forces, or  
 11 veteran identification card as issued by the United States  
 12 Department of Veteran Affairs under the “Veterans Identification  
 13 Card Act of 2015,” (38 U.S.C. 5706,) and duly recorded by the  
 14 office. The county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as  
 15 appropriate, shall require a copy of the documentary evidence  
 16 submitted to be kept on file with the application for the veteran  
 17 identification card, and shall note the location of the original **【DD-**  
 18 **214 or other approved separation form on that application form】**  
 19 documentary evidence as pursuant to this subsection. The copy of  
 20 the documentary evidence submitted and the application shall be  
 21 kept confidential and shall not be considered a government record  
 22 under P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), except that they may be  
 23 released to another government agency. The Adjutant General of  
 24 the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs shall assist in the  
 25 identification, and verification as needed, of approved separation  
 26 forms as outlined by all branches of the military and submitted by  
 27 applicants.

28 (cf. P.L.2017, c.292, s.2)

30 11. Section 1 of P.L.1985, c.482 (C.40A:11-41) is amended to  
 31 read as follows:

32 1. As used in this act:

33 a. "County or municipal contracting agency" shall mean the  
 34 governing body of a county or municipality or any department,  
 35 board, commission, committee, authority or agency of a county or  
 36 municipality but shall not include school districts;

37 b. "Minority group members" shall mean persons who are  
 38 black, Hispanic, Portuguese, Asian-American, American Indian or  
 39 Alaskan natives;

40 c. "Qualified women's business enterprise" shall mean a  
 41 business which has its principal place of business in this State, is  
 42 independently owned and operated, is at least **【51%】** 51 percent  
 43 owned and controlled by women and is qualified pursuant to section  
 44 25 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-25);

45 d. "Qualified minority business enterprise" shall mean a  
 46 business which has its principal place of business in this State, is  
 47 independently owned and operated, is at least **【51%】** 51 percent

1 owned and controlled by minority group members and is qualified  
2 pursuant to section 25 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-25);

3 e. "Qualified small business enterprise" shall mean a business  
4 which has its principal place of business in this State, is  
5 independently owned and operated and meets all other  
6 qualifications as may be established in accordance with P.L.1981,  
7 c.283 (C.52:27H-21.1 et seq.);

8 f. "Set-aside contracts" shall mean (1) a contract for goods,  
9 equipment, construction, or services which is designated as a  
10 contract for which bids are invited and accepted only from qualified  
11 small business enterprises, qualified veteran business enterprises,  
12 qualified minority business enterprises or qualified women's  
13 business enterprises, as appropriate, (2) a portion of a contract when  
14 that portion has been so designated, or (3) any other purchase or  
15 procurement so designated;

16 g. "Total procurements" shall mean all purchases, contracts or  
17 acquisitions of a county or municipal contracting agency, whether  
18 by competitive bidding, single source contracting, or other method  
19 of procurement, as prescribed or permitted by law;

20 h. "Veteran" [shall have the same meaning as set forth in  
21 subsection b. of N.J.S.11A:5-1,] means any resident of this State  
22 now or hereafter who has served in any branch of the Armed Forces  
23 of the United States or a Reserve component thereof or the National  
24 Guard of this State or another state as defined in section 1 of  
25 P.L.1963, c.109 (C.38A:1-1), and has been discharged honorably or  
26 under general honorable conditions from such service, except that  
27 the veteran shall present to the Adjutant General of the Department  
28 of Military and Veterans' Affairs sufficient evidence of a record of  
29 service, which shall include the applicant's DD-214, DD-215, or  
30 DD-256 form as issued by the federal government; NGB-22 or  
31 other approved separation forms as outlined by all branches of the  
32 Armed Forces; a county-issued veteran identification card pursuant  
33 to P.L.2012, c.30 (C.40A:9-78.1 et seq.); or a veteran identification  
34 card as issued by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs  
35 under the "Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015," (38 U.S.C.  
36 5706;) and receive a determination of status no later than the date  
37 established for the submission of bids; and

38 i. "Qualified veteran business enterprise" shall mean a  
39 business which has its principal place of business in this State, is  
40 independently owned and operated, is at least **[51%]** 51 percent  
41 owned and controlled by a veteran or that wherein at least twenty  
42 five percent of the required workforce for the contract are veterans,  
43 including new hires if additional workers are required to perform  
44 the contract, and is qualified pursuant to section 25 of P.L.1971,  
45 c.198 (C.40A:11-25). The business shall also submit forms  
46 quarterly to the contracting agency showing proof of veteran status  
47 for all the veteran employees.

48 (cf. P.L.2013, c.5, s.1)

1       12. Section 2 of P.L.2017, c.258 (C.52:27D-517) is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       2. As used in this act:

4       "Director" means the Director of the Division of Housing and  
5 Community Resources in the Department of Community Affairs.

6       "Disabled" means a person who fulfills the definition of having a  
7 "disability" pursuant to section 3 of the "Americans with  
8 Disabilities Act of 1990," 42 U.S.C. s.12102.

9       "Division" means the Division of Housing and Community  
10 Resources in the Department of Community Affairs.

11       "Eligible veteran" means a disabled or low-income veteran.

12       "Energy efficient features or equipment" means features or  
13 equipment within a primary residence that help to reduce the  
14 amount of electricity used to heat, cool, or ventilate the residence,  
15 including but not limited to insulation, weatherstripping, air sealing,  
16 repaired heating systems, or duct sealing.

17       "Family member" means a spouse, child, parent, sibling, aunt,  
18 uncle, niece, nephew, first cousin, grandparent, grandchild, father-  
19 in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, stepparent,  
20 stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister, whether  
21 the individual is related by blood, marriage, or adoption.

22       "Low-income veteran" means a veteran occupying a household  
23 with a gross household income equal to 50 percent or less of the  
24 median gross household income for households of the same size,  
25 and within the same housing region, as defined by subsection b. of  
26 section 4 of P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-304).

27       "Primary residence" means a dwelling unit that is owned by the  
28 eligible veteran or by a family member of the eligible veteran, and  
29 occupied by the eligible veteran as his or her principal residence.

30       "Qualified organization" means a nonprofit veterans'  
31 organization that qualifies as a section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax  
32 exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

33       "Veteran" means any resident of the State now or hereafter who  
34 has been **【honorably】** discharged honorably or **【released】** under  
35 general honorable **【circumstances from active service】** conditions  
36 in any branch of the **【armed forces】** Armed Forces of the United  
37 States, or a Reserve component thereof, or the National Guard of  
38 this State or another state as defined in section 1 of P.L.1963, c.109  
39 (C.38A:1-1), or any honorably discharged member of the American  
40 Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is declared  
41 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for  
42 federal veterans' benefits.

43 (cf. P.L.2017, c.258, s.2)

44  
45       13. Section 2 of P.L.2011, c. 147 (C.52:32-50) is amended to  
46 read as follows:

47       2. As used in this act:

1 "Authority" means the New Jersey Economic Development  
2 Authority.

3 "Contracting agency" means the State or any board, commission,  
4 authority or agency of the State.

5 "Department" means the New Jersey Department of the  
6 Treasury.

7 "Veteran" means any **[citizen and]** resident of this State now or  
8 hereafter **[honorably]** who has been discharged honorably or  
9 **[released]** under general honorable **[circumstances]** conditions  
10 who served in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States  
11 or a Reserve component thereof or the National Guard of this State  
12 or another state as defined in section 1 of P.L.1963, c.109  
13 (C.38A:1-1), **[for at least 90 days]** and shall include disabled  
14 veterans.

15 "Veteran-owned business" means a business that has its principal  
16 place of business in the State, is independently owned and operated  
17 and at least **[51%]** 51 percent of the business is owned and  
18 controlled by persons who are veterans.  
19 (cf. P.L.2011, c.147, s.2)  
20

21 14. This act shall take effect immediately.  
22  
23

## 24 STATEMENT 25

26 This bill establishes a uniform standard for acceptable proof of  
27 veteran status for veteran identification cards and various State and  
28 local programs.

29 N.J.S.A.40A:9-78.2 establishes a county veterans ID card  
30 program for the sole purpose of identifying the holder as a veteran  
31 when such identification is required to receive discounts or other  
32 courtesies extended to military veterans. In 2015, the federal  
33 government enacted the "Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015,"  
34 which created an additional veterans' identification card. These  
35 two identification cards were created to allow veterans to prove  
36 their Armed Forces service without having to carry around their  
37 DD-214 form or other sensitive documents.

38 The creation of these additional veterans' identification cards has  
39 led to different standards of proof across State and local agencies  
40 and programs designed to benefit veterans. In addition, several  
41 State and local agencies do not accept certain forms of proof for  
42 reservists of the Armed Forces whose active duty was limited to  
43 reserve-connected active training or service, such as a DD-256  
44 form. This bill streamlines the disparate list of documents  
45 acceptable to various State and local agencies to demonstrate  
46 uniformed service for veterans.

1       This bill also re-defines the “character of service” benchmark  
2       that veterans must reach to qualify for various State and local  
3       programs. To qualify for benefits afforded veterans under the laws  
4       of this State, a veteran is required to be released from service under  
5       honorable or general honorable conditions. This removes the  
6       previous benchmark of being released under conditions other than  
7       dishonorable, which included “bad conduct” and “other than  
8       honorable conditions” releases.

9

10

11

12

13       Establishes uniform standard for acceptable proof of veteran  
14       status for veteran’s ID cards and various State and local programs.