

SENATE, No. 1656

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Senator BOB ANDRZEJCZAK

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Van Drew, Brown and A.R.Bucco

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Veterans Assistance Grant Program for nonprofit organizations to provide certain services to veterans.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/14/2019)

1 AN ACT establishing a grant program for nonprofit organizations to
2 provide certain services to veterans and supplementing Title 38A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Veterans
9 Assistance Grant Program Act."

10
11 2. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
12 Legislature as this bill):

13 "Department" means the Department of Military and Veterans'
14 Affairs, established pursuant to N.J.S.38A:3-1 et seq.

15 "Grant fund" means the "Veterans Assistance Grant Fund,"
16 established pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
17 before the Legislature as this bill).

18 "Grant program" means the "Veterans Assistance Grant
19 Program," established pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.)
20 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

21 "Qualified applicant" means a governmental entity or a nonprofit
22 organization, which provides services to ensure the health and well-
23 being of veterans who live in the State and is tax exempt under
24 section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C.
25 s.501(c)(3)).

26 "Veteran" means a person who has been honorably discharged,
27 or discharged or released under other than dishonorable conditions,
28 from the active military service of the United States, or a reserve
29 component thereof.

30
31 3. a. The Adjutant General shall establish in the department
32 the "Veterans Assistance Grant Program." The program shall
33 provide grants to qualified applicants to provide the following
34 services for veterans who currently reside in the State:

- 35 (1) mental health services;
36 (2) family counseling services;
37 (3) job training and employment services; and
38 (4) housing assistance.

39 b. A qualified applicant seeking to participate in the grant
40 program shall submit an application in such form as shall be
41 required by the department. An application shall include
42 information that the department shall determine is necessary to
43 administer the grant program.

44 c. The department shall issue payment of the grant amount
45 following the submission of satisfactory proof by a qualified
46 applicant of the planned expenditures for the grant funds.

1 d. In order to receive a grant pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.)
2 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a qualified applicant
3 shall enter into a grant agreement with the department.

4 e. The department may, either through the adoption of rules
5 and regulations, or through the provisions of a grant agreement
6 made pursuant to subsection d. of this section, establish terms
7 governing the use of the grant award.

8

9 4. a. To implement the grant program, the department shall
10 establish and maintain a special revolving fund to be known as the
11 "Veterans Assistance Grant Fund." The department shall administer
12 the grant fund, which shall be credited with:

13 (1) moneys that the Legislature may appropriate;

14 (2) moneys received by the department as gifts, grants, or
15 donations, including grants accepted by the Adjutant General
16 pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1987, c.444 (C.38A:3-6.2);

17 (3) any return on investment of moneys deposited in the grant
18 fund;

19 (4) fees collected, if any, from applicants pursuant to subsection
20 c. of this section; and

21 (5) other moneys made available, including, but not limited to,
22 funds provided by agreement with private investors, the federal
23 government, banks, and other lending institutions to effectuate the
24 purposes of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
25 this bill).

26 b. The department may invest moneys in the grant fund, which
27 the department determines not to be needed for current
28 responsibilities of the grant fund, in any direct obligations the
29 department deems appropriate.

30 c. The department may charge fees in connection with
31 applications for participation in the grant program as it deems
32 reasonable.

33 d. The department may claim from the grant fund an amount,
34 which shall not exceed five percent of the moneys annually
35 appropriated by the Legislature, in any fiscal year, to cover
36 administrative expenses.

37 e. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations
38 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
39 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to carry out the purposes of P.L. ,
40 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

41

42 5. One year following the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending
43 before the Legislature as this bill), and annually thereafter, the
44 department shall report to the Governor and the Legislature,
45 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), regarding
46 the allocation of the moneys credited to the grant fund pursuant to
47 subsection a. of section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
48 the Legislature as this bill). The report shall include, but not be

1 limited to, a listing of the qualified applicants selected to participate
2 in the grant program, the services provided to veterans by the
3 qualified applicants receiving grant funding, the importance of the
4 financial incentive in the decision by a qualified applicant to
5 provide particular services to veterans, and the extent to which the
6 homeless veteran population of this State has diminished as a result
7 of the grant program. The report shall include the opinion of the
8 Adjutant General on the advisability of continuing, expanding, or
9 modifying the grant program.

10
11 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

12
13
14 **STATEMENT**
15

16 This bill creates the "Veterans Assistance Grant Program" in the
17 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to provide grants to
18 governmental entities and nonprofit organizations for certain
19 veterans' services.

20 This bill requires the department to provide select governmental
21 entities and nonprofit organizations funds to provide mental health
22 services, family counseling services, job training and employment
23 services, and housing assistance services to veterans who live in the
24 State. The department will manage the grant program and award
25 grants to governmental entities and nonprofit organizations to
26 provide veterans' services based upon application criteria selected
27 by the department. Any grant made through the grant program will
28 be subject to a grant agreement, which contains terms and
29 conditions considered appropriate by the department and are
30 consistent with the purposes of this bill.

31 As part of the program, the department will establish the
32 "Veterans Assistance Grant Fund," which will provide moneys for
33 the grant program. The grant fund will be populated with: (1)
34 moneys that the Legislature may appropriate; (2) moneys received
35 by the department as gifts, grants, or donations; (3) any return on
36 investment of moneys deposited in the grant fund; (4) fees collected
37 from applicants; and (5) other moneys made available including, but
38 not limited to, funds provided by agreement with private investors,
39 the federal government, banks, and other lending institutions to
40 effectuate the purposes of the bill.

41 The bill requires the department to report to the Governor and
42 Legislature on an annual basis concerning the allocation of the
43 moneys credited to the grant fund and the effect grant funding has
44 on the veteran population of the State. As part of the report, the bill
45 requires the Adjutant General to opine on the advisability of
46 continuing, expanding, or modifying the grant program.