

SENATE, No. 2452

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 5, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator A.R.Bucco

SYNOPSIS

Provides for increase in allowance paid to war veterans with certain service-connected disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/13/2018)

1 AN ACT providing for an increase to the allowance paid to veterans
2 with certain wartime service-connected disabilities, and
3 amending various parts of the statutory law.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. R.S.38:18-2 is amended to read as follows:

9 38:18-2. A soldier, who has sustained a total loss of sight as a
10 result of his service during any of the wars mentioned in section 1
11 of this chapter, shall be paid for the term of his life, and upon his
12 death his surviving spouse shall be paid, provided that the soldier or
13 surviving spouse shall continue as a resident of this State, the sum
14 of **[\$750.00]** \$1,800 annually, in monthly payments. Such
15 payments shall be due and payable from the date of discharge or
16 release of the soldier if application therefor shall be made within
17 one year from the date of such discharge or release. If the
18 application shall be made one year from the date of discharge or
19 release of the soldier such payments shall be due and payable from
20 the date of such application. Accrued payments to the date of
21 certification shall be paid in one lump sum.

22 (cf: P.L.1985, c.116, s.1)
23

24 2. R.S.38:18-3 is amended to read as follows:

25 38:18-3. Evidence of the service and disability mentioned in this
26 chapter shall be furnished to the Department of Economic
27 Development, which shall examine the same and upon being
28 satisfied that the service was performed and the soldier has been
29 rendered totally blind as a result thereof, shall so certify to the State
30 Comptroller who shall, upon receipt thereof, draw his warrant on
31 the State Treasurer in favor of the applicant in a bulk sum for any
32 accrued payments and in the sum of **[\$750.00]** \$1,800 annually,
33 which the State Treasurer shall pay out of the money appropriated
34 therefor by the Legislature.

35 (cf: P.L.1971, c.329, s.2)
36

37 3. Section 2 of P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-2) is amended to
38 read as follows:

39 2. A veteran who served in the active military or naval forces
40 of the United States and who has paraplegia and permanent
41 paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body, or who has
42 osteochondritis and permanent loss of the use of both legs, or who
43 has hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm or
44 either side of the body, resulting from injury to the spinal cord,
45 skeletal structure, or brain, or who has had both hands, both feet, or
46 one hand and one foot amputated, or who has lost the use of both
47 feet or both legs, due to multiple sclerosis, sustained through enemy
48 action, or accident, or resulting from disease contracted while in

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 active military or naval service, shall be paid for the term of the
2 veteran's life, and upon the veteran's death the surviving spouse,
3 domestic partner, or partner in civil union shall be paid, the sum of
4 **[\$750]** \$1,800 annually in monthly payments. Such payments shall
5 be due and payable from the date of discharge or release of the
6 veteran if application therefor shall be made within one year from
7 the date of such discharge or release. If the application shall be
8 made after one year from the date of discharge or release of the
9 veteran, such payment shall be due and payable from the date of
10 such application. Accrued payments to the date of certification shall
11 be paid in one lump sum.

12 Nothing in P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-1 et seq.) shall be
13 intended to include paraplegia or hemiplegia resulting from
14 locomotor ataxia or other forms of syphilis of the central nervous
15 system or from chronic alcohol use disorder, or to include other
16 forms of disease resulting from the veteran's own misconduct which
17 may produce signs and symptoms similar to those resulting from
18 paraplegia, osteochondritis, hemiplegia, or multiple sclerosis.
19 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.146)
20

21 4. Section 3 of P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-3) is amended to
22 read as follows:

23 3. Evidence of the service and disability mentioned in this act
24 shall be furnished to the Division of **[Veterans']** Veterans Services
25 of the Department of **[Human Services]** Military and Veterans
26 Affairs, which shall examine the same and upon being satisfied that
27 the service was performed and the veteran has been rendered
28 permanently paralyzed or has permanently lost the use of both legs,
29 or has suffered amputation, as defined in section 2 of this act, shall
30 so certify to the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting
31 in the Department of the Treasury, who shall, upon receipt thereof,
32 draw **[his]** a warrant on the State Treasurer in favor of the
33 applicant in the sum of **[\$750.00]** \$1,800 annually, which the State
34 Treasurer shall pay out of the money appropriated therefor by the
35 Legislature.

36 (cf: P.L.1981, c.424, s.3).
37

38 5. This act shall take effect on January 1 next following the
39 date of enactment.
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42 STATEMENT

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44 This bill would increase the annual payments by the State to
45 veterans with certain wartime service-connected disabilities to
46 \$1,800.

S2452 DIEGNAN

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1 Currently, a blind veteran receives \$750 annually under the Blind
2 Veterans' Allowance Program. This amount has not been changed
3 since 1971. A veteran with certain other disabilities also receives
4 \$750 annually under the Paraplegic and Hemiplegic Veterans'
5 Allowance Program. This amount has not been changed since
6 1981. This bill would increase the annual payments to \$1,800.