

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 158

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 2019

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Proposes amendment to Constitution to provide civil service hiring preference and property tax deduction to veteran who received badge, medal, or ribbon for serving in support of federal military combat operation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

4
5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
6 *General Assembly concurring):*

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8 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of
9 the State of New Jersey is agree to:

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11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

12
13 a. Amend Article VII, Section I, paragraph 2 to read as
14 follows:

15 2. Appointments and promotions in the civil service of the
16 State, and of such political subdivisions as may be provided by law,
17 shall be made according to merit and fitness to be ascertained, as far
18 as practicable, by examination, which, as far as practicable, shall be
19 competitive; except that preference in appointments by reason of
20 active service in any branch of the military or naval forces of the
21 United States in time of war, or in support of combat operations for
22 which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the service
23 member, may be provided by law.

24 (cf: Art. VII, Sec. I, par. 2)

25
26 b. Amend Article VIII, Section 1, paragraph 3 to read as
27 follows:

28 3. Any citizen and resident of this State now or hereafter
29 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
30 from active service, in time of war or other emergency as, from
31 time to time, defined by the Legislature, or in support of combat
32 operations for which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the
33 service member, in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United
34 States shall be entitled, annually to a deduction from the amount of
35 any tax bill for taxes on real and personal property, or both,
36 including taxes attributable to a residential unit held by a
37 stockholder in a cooperative or mutual housing corporation, in the
38 sum of \$50 or if the amount of any such tax bill shall be less than
39 \$50, to a cancellation thereof, except that the deduction or
40 cancellation shall be \$100 in tax year 2000, \$150 in tax year 2001,
41 \$200 in tax year 2002 and \$250 in each tax year thereafter. The
42 deduction or cancellation shall not be altered or repealed. Any
43 person hereinabove described who has been or shall be declared by
44 the United States Veterans Administration, or its successor, to have
45 a service-connected disability, shall be entitled to such further

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 deduction from taxation as from time to time may be provided by
 2 law. The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State
 3 who has met or shall meet his or her death on active duty in time of
 4 war or of other emergency as so defined, or in support of combat
 5 operations for which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the
 6 service member, in any such service shall be entitled, during her
 7 widowhood or his widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a
 8 resident of this State, to the deduction or cancellation in this
 9 paragraph provided for honorably discharged veterans and to such
 10 further deduction as from time to time may be provided by law.
 11 The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State who
 12 has had or shall hereafter have active service in time of war or of
 13 other emergency as so defined, or in support of combat operations
 14 for which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the service
 15 member, in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States
 16 and who died or shall die while on active duty in any branch of the
 17 Armed Forces of the United States, or who has been or may
 18 hereafter be honorably discharged or released under honorable
 19 circumstances from active service in time of war or of other
 20 emergency as so defined, or in support of combat operations for
 21 which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the service
 22 member, in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States
 23 shall be entitled, during her widowhood or his widowerhood, as the
 24 case may be, and while a resident of this State, to the deduction or
 25 cancellation in this paragraph provided for honorably discharged
 26 veterans and to such further deductions as from time to time may be
 27 provided by law.

28 (cf: Art. VIII, Sec. I, par. 3, amended effective December 2, 1999)

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

38

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

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

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

46 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus
 47 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are

1 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the
2 square opposite the word "No."

3 b. In every municipality the following question:

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| | YES | <p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW VETERANS WITH SERVICE BADGE, MEDAL, OR RIBBON TO RECEIVE CIVIL SERVICE HIRING PREFERENCE AND PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION</p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to give a civil service hiring preference to a veteran who has a badge, medal, or ribbon for serving in support of military combat operations?</p> <p>The amendment also gives those same veterans a property tax deduction.</p> |
| | NO | <p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>This change to the Constitution would expand the number of veterans eligible for a civil service hiring preference. The amendment would also expand the number of veterans eligible for a property tax deduction. These benefits would be given to a veteran who was awarded a badge, medal, or ribbon for serving in support of military combat operations. At present, only veterans who served in time of war or other emergency are eligible for these benefits.</p> |

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STATEMENT

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9 At present, the State Constitution allows a veteran who served in
10 time of war to receive a civil service hiring preference for public
11 employment, and allows a veteran who served in time of war or
12 during other emergency to receive a property tax deduction.

13 This proposed amendment would make a veteran eligible for
14 these benefits if the veteran served in support of a federal military
15 combat operation and received a badge, medal, or ribbon.

16 The criteria for a badge, medal, or ribbon is determined by the
17 federal government and generally include, but are not limited to,
18 military operations with active or potentially active opposing hostile
19 forces and performance under enemy fire with a risk of grave
20 danger.