

ASSEMBLY, No. 995

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

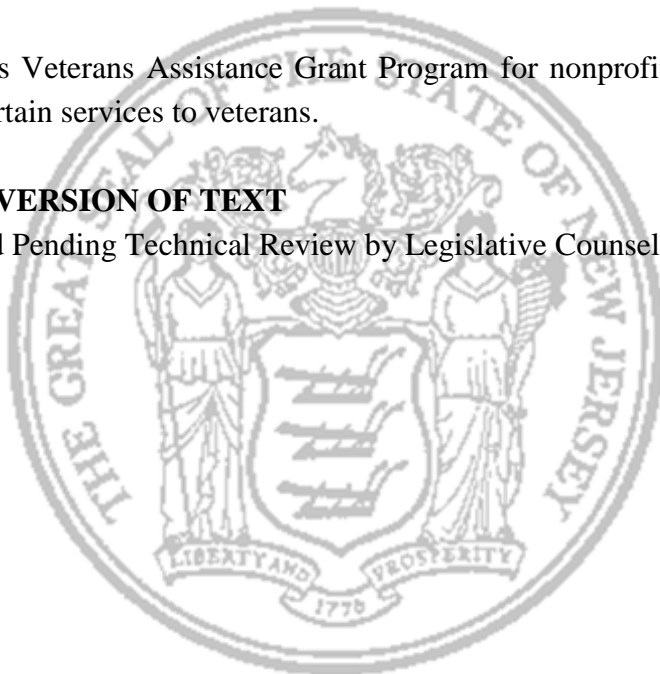
Assemblymen Danielsen, Zwicker, Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen Mosquera, Chaparro and Murphy

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



A995 DOWNEY, HOUGHTALING

2

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 or the federal
23 government to effectuate the purposes of P.L. , c. (C.)
24 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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10 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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13 STATEMENT

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

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

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

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