

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2559

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblywoman BETTYLOU DECROCE**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywomen Speight, Reynolds-Jackson and Murphy**

**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: 11/8/2021)**

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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:

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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

**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 one hand and one foot amputated, or who has lost the use of both  
2 feet or both legs, due to multiple sclerosis, sustained through enemy  
3 action, or accident, or resulting from disease contracted while in  
4 active military or naval service, shall be paid for the term of the  
5 veteran's life, and upon the veteran's death the surviving spouse,  
6 domestic partner, or partner in civil union shall be paid, the sum of  
7 **[\$750]** \$1,800 annually in monthly payments. Such payments shall  
8 be due and payable from the date of discharge or release of the  
9 veteran if application therefor shall be made within one year from  
10 the date of such discharge or release. If the application shall be  
11 made after one year from the date of discharge or release of the  
12 veteran, such payment shall be due and payable from the date of  
13 such application. Accrued payments to the date of certification shall  
14 be paid in one lump sum.

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

23

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

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

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

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

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#### STATEMENT

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47 This bill would increase the annual payments by the State to

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1 veterans with certain wartime service-connected disabilities to  
2 \$1,800.

3       Currently, a blind veteran receives \$750 annually under the Blind  
4 Veterans' Allowance Program. This amount has not been changed  
5 since 1971. A veteran with certain other disabilities also receives  
6 \$750 annually under the Paraplegic and Hemiplegic Veterans'  
7 Allowance Program. This amount has not been changed since  
8 1981. This bill would increase the annual payments to \$1,800.