

SENATE, No. 2565

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 11, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Increases allowance paid to war veterans with certain service-connected disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

37 (cf: P.L.1971, c.329, s.2)
38

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

41 2. A veteran who served in the active military or naval forces
42 of the United States and who has paraplegia and permanent
43 paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body, or who has
44 osteochondritis and permanent loss of the use of both legs, or who
45 has hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm 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 either side of the body, resulting from injury to the spinal cord,
2 skeletal structure, or brain, or who has had both hands, both feet, or
3 one hand and one foot amputated, or who has lost the use of both
4 feet or both legs, due to multiple sclerosis, sustained through enemy
5 action, or accident, or resulting from disease contracted while in
6 active military or naval service, shall be paid for the term of the
7 veteran's life, and upon the veteran's death the surviving spouse,
8 domestic partner, or partner in civil union shall be paid, the sum of
9 **[\$750]** \$1,800 annually in monthly payments. Such payments shall
10 be due and payable from the date of discharge or release of the
11 veteran if application therefor shall be made within one year from
12 the date of such discharge or release. If the application shall be
13 made after one year from the date of discharge or release of the
14 veteran, such payment shall be due and payable from the date of
15 such application. Accrued payments to the date of certification shall
16 be paid in one lump sum.

17 Nothing in P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-1 et seq.) shall be
18 intended to include paraplegia or hemiplegia resulting from
19 locomotor ataxia or other forms of syphilis of the central nervous
20 system or from chronic alcohol use disorder, or to include other
21 forms of disease resulting from the veteran's own misconduct which
22 may produce signs and symptoms similar to those resulting from
23 paraplegia, osteochondritis, hemiplegia, or multiple sclerosis.
24 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.146)
25

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

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

41 (cf: P.L.1981, c.424, s.3)
42

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

STATEMENT

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

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