

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2821**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED AUGUST 17, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Senator CHRIS A. BROWN**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

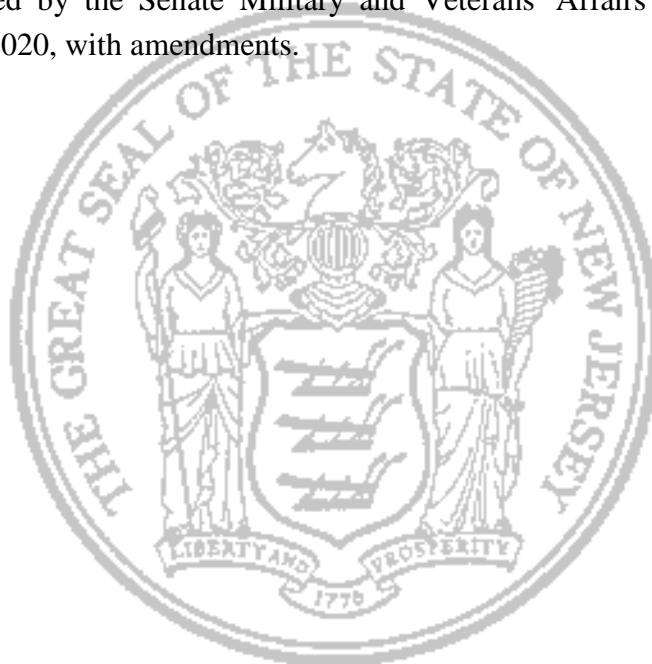
**Senators Corrado, Connors, Cruz-Perez and Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Adjutant General of DMVA create program for veterans to receive evaluation and treatment for PTSD, total brain injury, or traumatic brain injury.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee on October 19, 2020, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning veterans and post-traumatic stress disorder and  
 2 <sup>1</sup>**total** certain<sup>1</sup> brain <sup>1</sup>**injury** injuries<sup>1</sup>, and amending  
 3 N.J.S.38A:3-6.  
 4

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

8 1. N.J.S.38A:3-6 is amended to read as follows:

9 38A:3-6. Under the direction of the Governor, the Adjutant  
 10 General shall:

11 (a) Exercise control over the affairs of the Department of Military  
 12 and Veterans' Affairs and in connection therewith make and issue such  
 13 regulations governing the work of the Department of Military and  
 14 Veterans' Affairs and the conduct of its employees as may, in his  
 15 judgment, be necessary or desirable.

16 (b) Be the request officer of the Department of Military and  
 17 Veterans' Affairs within the meaning of such term as defined in section  
 18 1 of P.L.1944, c.112 (C.52:27B-1).

19 (c) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1988, c.138.)

20 (d) Command the organized militia of the State, with responsibility  
 21 for recruiting, mobilization, administration, training, discipline,  
 22 equipping, supply and general efficiency thereof. He may issue such  
 23 regulations and delegate such command functions as he shall deem  
 24 necessary. The regulations so issued shall, insofar as possible, conform  
 25 to the federal laws and regulations concerning the same.

26 (e) Maintain the archives and be the custodian of the records and  
 27 papers required, by laws or regulations, to be filed with the  
 28 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

29 (f) Supervise, administer and coordinate those activities of the  
 30 selective service system for which the Governor is responsible.

31 (g) Acquire by gift, grant, purchase, exchange, eminent domain, or  
 32 in any other lawful manner, in the name of and for the use of the State  
 33 of New Jersey, all those parcels of land as shall be necessary for  
 34 armories and other militia facilities, and supervise the design,  
 35 construction, alteration, maintenance and repair of said property.

36 (h) Establish and maintain such headquarters as may be required  
 37 for the militia.

38 (i) Exercise the powers vested in him and perform such other  
 39 duties and functions as required of him by the Governor and by federal  
 40 and State laws and regulations.

41 (j) Exercise all of the functions, powers and duties heretofore  
 42 vested in the Director of the Division on Veterans' Programs and  
 43 Special Services.

44 (k) Appoint and remove officers and other personnel employed  
 45 within the department, subject to the provisions of N.J.S.38A:3-8 and

**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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SMV committee amendments adopted October 19, 2020.

1 Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes and other applicable statutes,  
2 except as herein otherwise specifically provided.

3 (l) Have authority to organize and maintain an administrative  
4 division and to assign to employment therein secretarial, clerical and  
5 other assistants in the department or the Adjutant General's Office for  
6 the purpose of providing centralized support to all segments of the  
7 department, including budgeting, personnel administration and  
8 oversight of equal opportunity programs.

9 (m) Perform, exercise and discharge the functions, powers and  
10 duties of the department through such divisions as may be established  
11 by this act or otherwise by law.

12 (n) Organize the work of the department in divisions not  
13 inconsistent with the provisions of this act and in bureaus and other  
14 organizational units as the Adjutant General may determine to be  
15 necessary for efficient and effective operation.

16 (o) Adopt, issue and promulgate, in the name of the department,  
17 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
18 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be authorized  
19 by law.

20 (p) Institute, or cause to be instituted, legal proceedings or  
21 processes as necessary to properly enforce and give effect to any of the  
22 Adjutant General's powers or duties.

23 (q) Make an annual report to the Governor and to the Legislature  
24 of the department's operations, and render other reports as the  
25 Governor shall from time to time request or as may be required by law.

26 (r) Coordinate the activities of the department, and the several  
27 divisions and other agencies therein, in a manner designed to eliminate  
28 overlapping and duplicative functions.

29 (s) Integrate within the department, so far as practicable, all staff  
30 services of the department and of several divisions and other agencies  
31 therein.

32 (t) Request access to all relevant files and records of other State  
33 agencies, which may be made available to the Adjutant General by the  
34 head of a State agency, and request, subject to the permission of the  
35 head of the State agency, any officer or employee therein to provide  
36 information as necessary to assist in the performance of the functions  
37 of the department.

38 (u) Supervise and operate the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial  
39 Home-Menlo Park, the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-  
40 Vineland, the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home-Paramus and the  
41 New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Cemetery-Arnetown.

42 (v) Supervise and operate the liaison office and the field offices  
43 which serve the federal Veterans' Affairs Medical Centers.

44 (w) Make application for federal grants and programs, other than  
45 education grants or funds.

46 (x) Administer the federally-funded training and rehabilitation  
47 programs, except for the administration of federally-funded education  
48 and training programs set forth in 38 U.S.C. s.36 et seq.

1 (y) Provide current information to the general public on State and  
2 federal veterans' programs and benefits; create a comprehensive public  
3 webpage for women veterans that includes, but is not limited to, the  
4 following information: veterans' legal rights, benefits, medical and  
5 insurance issues, education, the transition from active service to  
6 civilian life, and other resources available to veterans.

7 (z) Develop and administer the New Jersey Homeless Veterans  
8 Grant Program established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2013, c.239  
9 (C.38A:3-6.2b).

10 (aa) Encourage and facilitate the registration of each service  
11 member residing in New Jersey with the United States Department of  
12 Veterans Affairs, or its successor agency. Registration shall take  
13 place, as appropriate, when the service member returns from  
14 deployment on federal active duty or is discharged or as soon as  
15 possible thereafter. The term "service member" shall mean members  
16 of the New Jersey National Guard and members of the United States  
17 Armed Forces, or a Reserve component thereof, when the information  
18 on each member is made available to the department.

19 (bb) Develop and coordinate a volunteer-based program comprised  
20 of former servicemembers to assist and mentor veterans who become  
21 involved with the criminal justice system, while criminal proceedings  
22 are pending and afterward, in accessing assistance to resolve the  
23 underlying problems that led or contributed to the veteran's  
24 involvement with the criminal justice system including, but not limited  
25 to, offering support and guidance, securing housing, employment  
26 linkages, job training, education, transportation, disability  
27 compensation claims, discharge status, health care and other linkages  
28 available at the local, State and federal level that can ease the  
29 challenge of reentry into civilian life. In addition, the Adjutant  
30 General shall develop a registry of volunteer mentors and make the  
31 registry available pursuant to P.L.2017, c.42 (C.2C:43-23 et al.).

32 (cc) Prepare and disseminate a directory of Veterans Diversion  
33 Resource Program entities currently available within New Jersey  
34 pursuant to P.L.2017, c.42 (C.2C:43-23 et al.).

35 (dd) Create a comprehensive public webpage for Gold Star family  
36 members that includes, but is not limited to, the following information:  
37 State benefits; State and county liaisons; a list of service members  
38 from New Jersey killed in action; links to other Gold Star family  
39 organizations; and such other information and resources as the  
40 Adjutant General deems necessary and beneficial to a Gold Star family  
41 member. A "Gold Star family member" means the spouse, domestic  
42 partner, partner in a civil union, parent, brother, sister, child, legal  
43 guardian, or other legal custodian, whether of the whole or half blood,  
44 or by adoption.

45 (ee) Identify each New Jersey resident who enrolls in the United  
46 States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, United States  
47 Coast Guard Academy, United States Merchant Marine Academy, or

1 United States Air Force Academy, and issue a New Jersey State flag to  
2 that individual.

3 (ff) Develop, in coordination with appropriate departments and  
4 agencies, a program to assist veterans in accessing evaluation and  
5 treatment for a post-traumatic stress disorder <sup>1</sup>【or】 <sup>1</sup> total brain  
6 injury<sup>1</sup>, or traumatic brain injury<sup>1</sup> diagnosis related to military service.  
7 The program may include offering support and guidance,  
8 transportation, assistance filing disability compensation claims,  
9 assistance updating discharge status, health care and other services or  
10 programs available at the local, State and federal level for obtaining  
11 and addressing a post-traumatic stress disorder <sup>1</sup>【or】 <sup>1</sup> total brain  
12 injury<sup>1</sup>, or traumatic brain injury<sup>1</sup> diagnosis. A “veteran” means a  
13 person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States or a  
14 Reserve component thereof, including the New Jersey National Guard.  
15 (cf: P.L.2019, c.283, s.1)

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17 2. This act shall take effect immediately.