

SENATE, No. 3575

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 22, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator A.M.Bucco

SYNOPSIS

Establishes NJ Military Family Relief Fund; provides for designation on State gross income tax return to permit taxpayers to make voluntary contributions to military family relief fund.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/25/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning military family relief grants and supplementing
2 Titles 54A and 38A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. There is established in the Department of the Treasury a
8 separate, nonlapsing fund to be known as the “New Jersey Military
9 Family Relief Fund.” Moneys in the “New Jersey Military Family
10 Relief Fund” shall be held by the State Treasurer and made available
11 for the purposes designated under section 2 of this act,
12 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

13 b. Each taxpayer shall have the opportunity to indicate on the
14 taxpayer's New Jersey gross income tax return that a portion of the
15 taxpayer's tax refund or an enclosed contribution shall be deposited
16 in the separate, nonlapsing fund.

17 c. Any costs incurred by the Division of Taxation for collection
18 or administration attributable to this act may be deducted from
19 receipts collected pursuant to this act, as determined by the Director
20 of the Division of Budget and Accounting. The State Treasurer shall
21 deposit net contributions collected pursuant to this act into the “New
22 Jersey Military Family Relief Fund.”

23 d. The Legislature shall annually appropriate all funds deposited
24 in the “New Jersey Military Family Relief Fund” established
25 pursuant to this section to the Department of Military and Veterans
26 Affairs, which shall be credited with:

27 (1) moneys received by the State as gifts, grants, or donations for
28 the purpose of military family relief, including, at the discretion of
29 the Adjutant General, grants accepted by the Department of Military
30 and Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1987, c.444
31 (C.38A:3-6.2);

32 (2) moneys that the Legislature may appropriate; and

33 (3) other moneys made available including, but not limited to,
34 funds provided by the federal government.

35
36 2. a. The purpose of the “New Jersey Military Family Relief
37 Fund” shall be to provide grants up to \$2,500 to defray the costs of
38 food, housing, medical services, and other essential expenses for (1)
39 members of the United States Armed Forces, or a Reserve component
40 thereof, and their families, (2) members of the New Jersey National
41 Guard and their families, (3) veterans and their families, or (4) the
42 surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces, or a reserve
43 component thereof, a member of the national guard, or a veteran.

44 For the purposes of this subsection,

45 “veteran” means an individual who received an honorable
46 discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions from
47 active service in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, or a
48 Reserve component thereof, or the New Jersey National Guard.

1 Department of the Treasury. Moneys in the fund would be held by
2 the State Treasurer and made available for the purposes of the bill.
3 The purpose of the military family relief fund would be to provide
4 grants up to \$2,500 to defray the costs of food, housing, medical
5 services, and other essential expenses for (1) members of the United
6 States Armed Forces, or a Reserve component thereof, and their
7 families, (2) members of the New Jersey National Guard and their
8 families, (3) veterans and their families, or (4) the surviving spouse
9 of a member of the armed forces, or a reserve component thereof, a
10 member of the national guard, or a veteran.

11 The bill provides that the Legislature would annually appropriate
12 all funds deposited in the “New Jersey Military Family Relief Fund”
13 to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, which would be
14 credited with:

15 (1) moneys received by the State as gifts, grants, or donations for
16 the purpose of military family relief, including, at the discretion of
17 the Adjutant General, grants accepted by the Department of Military
18 and Veterans Affairs;

19 (2) moneys that the Legislature may appropriate; and

20 (3) other moneys made available including, but not limited to,
21 funds provided by the federal government.

22 Under the bill, the Adjutant General of the Department of Military
23 and Veterans Affairs would determine the application process, and
24 establish the eligibility documentation required for a person to be
25 considered a qualified applicant, and issue the grant from the “New
26 Jersey Military Family Relief Fund,” if adequate moneys are
27 available, to those qualified applicants.

28 To be qualified, the applicant is required to be a New Jersey
29 resident and must have resided in the State for a period of not less
30 than 12 consecutive months immediately prior to submitting an
31 application. An applicant must also provide documentation of
32 financial hardship to the department in order to receive the grant and
33 is prohibited from receiving a grant from the “New Jersey Military
34 Family Relief Fund” more than once in any 12-month period.

35 Under the bill,

36 “veteran” means an individual who received an honorable
37 discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions from
38 active service in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, or a
39 Reserve component thereof, or the New Jersey National Guard.