

ASSEMBLY, No. 2103

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 1996

By Assemblymen ROMA and AZZOLINA

1 AN ACT concerning the definition and classification of certain persons
2 as veterans and supplementing Title 38 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. Notwithstanding any other law, rule or regulation to the
8 contrary, any resident of New Jersey who served on active duty in any
9 branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the
10 National Guard and the Reserve component of the Armed Forces of
11 the United States, on or after February 1, 1955 and on or prior to
12 December 30, 1960 for at least two years, shall be defined and
13 classified as a veteran for the purpose of being eligible to receive all
14 benefits, entitlements, exemptions and grants currently provided to
15 veterans of other wars, conflicts or times of emergency pursuant to
16 statutory law.

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18 2. a. A retiree of a State-administered retirement system who
19 meets the definition of a veteran pursuant to this act, or the surviving
20 spouse of a retiree who met that definition, shall be eligible to receive
21 the special veterans' retirement allowance pursuant to statutory law in
22 lieu of the retirement allowance that the retiree or the surviving spouse
23 is receiving on the effective date of this act.

24 b. The provisions of section 7 of P.L.1969, c.169 (C.43:3B-8) shall
25 not apply to the benefit increase that results from this act, and the
26 annual cost of living adjustment received under P.L.1958, c.143
27 (C.43:3B-1 et seq) shall be calculated as of the date of retirement of
28 a retiree of the system. The State shall pay the additional costs arising
29 from any increase in the cost of living adjustment received by a retiree
30 of a State-administered retirement system who meets the definition of
31 a veteran as a result of this act or the surviving spouse of a retiree who
32 met that definition.

33 c. No retiree of a State-administered retirement system who meets
34 the definition of a veteran pursuant to this act, or the surviving spouse
35 of a retiree who met that definition, shall be granted a retroactive
36 payment based upon the difference between the retirement allowance
37 that the retiree or the surviving spouse would have received if that

1 retiree had met the definition of a veteran on the date of retirement
2 and the retirement allowance that the retiree or the surviving spouse
3 has received from the date of retirement to the effective date of this
4 act.

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6 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill defines and classifies as a veteran, for the purpose of being
12 eligible to receive all benefits, entitlements, exemptions and grants
13 currently provided to other veterans pursuant to statutory law, any
14 resident of New Jersey serving on active duty, for at least two years,
15 in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the
16 National Guard and the Reserve component of the Armed Forces of
17 the United States, on or after February 1, 1955 and on or prior to
18 December 30, 1960.

19 The bill also permits a retiree of a State-administered retirement
20 system who meets the definition of a veteran as a result of this bill, or
21 the surviving spouse of a retiree who met that definition, to be eligible
22 to receive the special veterans' retirement allowance in lieu of the
23 retirement allowance the retiree or the surviving spouse is receiving on
24 the day that the bill becomes law. The bill directs the State to pay the
25 additional costs arising from any increase in the cost of living
26 adjustment received by a retiree who meets the definition of a veteran
27 as a result of the bill or by a surviving spouse. It prohibits, however,
28 the granting of any retroactive payments to a retiree or a surviving
29 spouse.

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35 Defines and classifies as a veteran persons serving on active duty for
36 at least two years between 1955 and 1960 for purpose of receiving
benefits and entitlements provided to other veterans.