

ASSEMBLY, No. 1024

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

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SYNOPSIS

Requires issuance of one free copy of birth certificate to military veteran.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning birth certificates and amending R.S.26:8-63.

2

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

5

6 1. R.S.26:8-63 is amended to read as follows:

7 26:8-63. The State registrar shall:

8 a. Furnish a certification or certified copy of a birth, marriage,
9 civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death or death certificate
10 without fee in the prosecution of any claim for public pension or for
11 military or naval enlistment purposes; and

12 b. Furnish the United States Public Health Service without
13 expense to the State, microfilm or photocopy images of birth,
14 marriage, civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death and death
15 certificates without payment of the fees prescribed in this article;
16 and

17 c. Furnish a certified transcript of any entry in the records of
18 the New Jersey State census without fee for certification in the
19 prosecution of any claim for public pension, for military or naval
20 enlistment purposes; and

21 d. Furnish without fee upon request for administrative use by
22 any city, State or federal agency a certified transcript of any New
23 Jersey State census entry, or a certification or certified copy of a
24 birth, death, fetal death, marriage, civil union or domestic
25 partnership certificate; and

26 e. Furnish without fee upon request a certified copy of a
27 veteran's death certificate to the veteran's legal representative, the
28 executor or administrator of the veteran's estate, or to a family
29 member authorized to obtain a copy of the death certificate pursuant
30 to subsection a. of R.S.26:8-62. No more than one copy of a
31 veteran's death certificate may be provided without fee pursuant to
32 this subsection; all other copies of the death certificate shall be
33 subject to the statutory fee; and

34 f. Furnish without fee upon request by a homeless person a
35 certified copy of the person's birth certificate, provided that the
36 person submits the request through a social worker or the
37 coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the
38 person is temporarily residing. The request shall be transmitted on
39 the emergency shelter's letterhead and shall include the shelter's
40 employer identification number and an attestation by the
41 coordinator that the person requesting the certificate is currently
42 homeless and residing at the shelter or the request shall be
43 submitted on the social worker's agency or professional practice
44 letterhead and shall include the agency's or the professional
45 practice's employer identification number and an attestation by the

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 social worker that the person requesting the certificate is currently
2 homeless. A certified copy of a birth certificate furnished pursuant
3 to this subsection shall be transmitted to the social worker or
4 coordinator who transmitted the request. No more than one
5 certified copy of a birth certificate furnished to a homeless person
6 pursuant to this subsection shall be provided without fee; all other
7 copies of the birth certificate shall be subject to the statutory fee;
8 and

9 g. Furnish, without fee, and upon the request of a veteran who
10 was born in this State, a certified copy of the veteran's birth
11 certificate. No more than one certified copy of a birth certificate
12 shall be furnished to a veteran without fee pursuant to this
13 subsection. All other copies of the birth certificate shall be subject
14 to the statutory fee.

15 As used in this section:

16 "Fee" includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification,
17 processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that
18 would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a
19 certificate or transcript【; and】.

20 "Homeless person" means a person without a domicile who is
21 unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined by a
22 social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter for the
23 homeless established pursuant to P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et
24 seq.).

25 "Veteran" means any individual who has been discharged or
26 released from service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the
27 United States, or any discharged member of the American Merchant
28 Marine who served during World War II and is declared by the
29 United States Department of Defense to be eligible for federal
30 veterans' benefits. "Veteran" shall not include an individual
31 discharged or released under dishonorable circumstances.

32 (cf: P.L.2016, c.98, s.1)

33
34 2. The Commissioner of Health shall, pursuant to the
35 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
36 seq.), promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions
37 of this act.

38
39 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
40
41

42 STATEMENT

43
44 This bill requires the issuance of one free copy of a birth
45 certificate to a military veteran. Under the bill, a current or former
46 member of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National
47 Guard is to be eligible to receive one certified copy of his or her

1 birth certificate upon request. Additional copies of the birth
2 certificate are to be subject to the regular statutory fee.

3 As used in the bill, “veteran” means any individual who has been
4 discharged or released from service in any branch of the Armed
5 Forces of the United States, or any discharged member of the
6 American Merchant Marine who served during World War II and is
7 declared by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible
8 for federal veterans’ benefits. “Veteran” is not to include an
9 individual discharged or released under dishonorable circumstances.