

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 241, *approved September 28, 2021*

Assembly, No. 3123

1 AN ACT concerning veterans' honorable discharge papers and
2 amending R.S.38:25-5.

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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. R.S.38:25-5 is amended to read as follows:

8 38:25-5. Each county clerk, or the register of deeds in counties
9 having the same, shall record, without costs, when delivered to him
10 for that purpose, in large and bound books of good paper to be
11 provided for that purpose, and carefully preserved and indexed, and
12 to be called and backed "honorable discharges of veterans," the
13 honorable discharge or the certificate in lieu of an honorable
14 discharge, and the record of service or notice of separation showing
15 the record of service, as issued by the proper governmental agency
16 of the Federal Government, of **any** soldier, sailor, marine or nurse
17 who has or may hereafter serve in the army, navy, marine or air
18 corps a person who has served in the Armed Forces of the United
19 States, or a reserve component thereof, or of **any** a member of the
20 American Merchant Marine during World War II who is declared
21 by the United States Department of Defense to be eligible for
22 federal veterans' benefits.

23 A veteran, or a person designated by the veteran as the veteran's
24 personal representative, may withdraw the honorable discharge,
25 certificate in lieu of an honorable discharge, record of service, or
26 notice of separation showing the record of service from the county
27 clerk at any time.

28 (cf: P.L.1991, c.389, s.18)

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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33 STATEMENT

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35 Currently, veterans may file their honorable discharge papers,
36 commonly known as DD-214 forms, with the county clerk for
37 safekeeping if they so choose. The law is silent, however, on
38 whether veterans may withdraw such forms from the county clerk
39 once they have been filed. This bill clarifies the law, allowing
40 veterans, or a person designated by a veteran as a personal
41 representative, to withdraw such papers from the county clerk at
42 any time.

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.

A3123

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Allows veteran or personal representative to withdraw honorable

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discharge papers from county clerk.