

**SENATE, No. 2024**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permits county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages to issue identification card to Gold Star Family member.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/15/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning identification cards issued by a county clerk or  
2 register of deeds and mortgages for a Gold Star Family Member  
3 and amending P.L.2017, c.289.  
4

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

8 1. Section 1 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 1. Sections 1 through 8 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8 et  
11 seq.) shall be known and may be cited as the "County Identification  
12 Cards for Gold Star **Parents** Families Act."  
13 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.1)  
14

15 2. Section 2 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.9) is amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 2. As used in this act, P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8 et seq.),  
18 "Gold Star **Parent** Family Member" means , whether of the whole  
19 or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic  
20 partner, partner in a civil union, parent, legal guardian or other legal  
21 custodian, [whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption,] or  
22 child of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States who  
23 died while on active duty for the United States.  
24 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.2)  
25

26 3. Section 3 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.10) is amended to  
27 read as follows:

28 3. A county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as  
29 appropriate, may establish a Gold Star **Parent** Family  
30 identification card program for the sole purpose of identifying the  
31 holder as a Gold Star **Parent** Family Member when such  
32 identification is required to receive discounts or other courtesies  
33 extended to military families.  
34 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.3)  
35

36 4. Section 4 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.11) is amended to  
37 read as follows:

38 4. When such a program has been authorized, the county clerk  
39 or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate, shall issue an  
40 identification card to any Gold Star **Parent** Family Member who  
41 is a resident of the county. The Gold Star **Parent** Family  
42 identification card shall display the words "Gold Star **Parent**  
43 Family Member," bear the true name and branch of the armed  
44 forces in which the person who lost his or her life while on active  
45 duty for the United States served, and other identifying information

**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 as certified by the applicant for the Gold Star **Parent** Family  
2 identification card. Every application for a Gold Star **Parent**  
3 Family identification card shall be signed and certified by the  
4 applicant and shall be supported by such documentary evidence as  
5 the county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate,  
6 may require.

7 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.4)

8  
9 5. Section 5 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.12) is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 5. a. Application for issuance of a Gold Star **Parent** Family  
12 identification card shall be made in a manner prescribed by the  
13 county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as appropriate. In  
14 order to be deemed complete, an application shall be accompanied  
15 by proof satisfactory to the county clerk or register of deeds and  
16 mortgages, as appropriate, that the applicant is a **parent** family  
17 member of a member of the armed forces who died while on active  
18 duty for the United States. Proof satisfactory may include any or all  
19 of the following:

20 (1) a certification of an organization formed for the support of  
21 parents or other family members of members of the armed forces  
22 who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States **[,]**  
23 that the applicant is **either the** , whether of the whole or half  
24 blood or by adoption, as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner,  
25 partner in a civil union, parent, legal guardian or other legal  
26 custodian, **[whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption,]** or  
27 child of a member of the armed forces who died while on active  
28 duty for the United States;

29 (2) the service member's federal DD Form 1300, Report of  
30 Casualty, or its succeeding form, which identifies the member of  
31 the armed forces who died while on active duty for the United  
32 States; and

33 (3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the  
34 service member.

35 The copy of the DD Form 1300 and the application shall be kept  
36 confidential and shall not be considered a government record under  
37 P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), except that they may be released  
38 to another government agency.

39 b. The county clerk or register of deeds and mortgages, as  
40 appropriate, may consult with a representative of the Department of  
41 New Jersey of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or any other  
42 organization formed for the support of parents or other family  
43 members of members of the armed forces who lost their lives while  
44 on active duty for the United States or the Adjutant General of the  
45 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs when establishing the  
46 documentation that may constitute satisfactory proof of an  
47 applicant's relationship to the service member. In instances where

1 an applicant is unable to produce documentation deemed  
2 acceptable, the Adjutant General shall assist in making a  
3 determination of the applicant's eligibility for a Gold Star **【Parent】**  
4 **Family** **【Identification】** identification card.  
5 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.5)

6  
7 6. Section 6 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.13) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 6. It shall be unlawful for any person:

10 a. To display or cause or permit to be displayed or have in the  
11 person's possession any canceled, fictitious, fraudulently altered, or  
12 fraudulently obtained Gold Star **【Parent】** **Family** identification  
13 card;

14 b. To lend the Gold Star **【Parent】** **Family** identification card to  
15 any other person or knowingly permit the use thereof by another;

16 c. To display or represent any Gold Star **【Parent】** **Family**  
17 identification card not issued to the person as being the person's  
18 card;

19 d. To permit any unlawful use of a Gold Star **【Parent】** **Family**  
20 identification card issued to the person;

21 e. To photograph, photostat, duplicate, or in any way reproduce  
22 any Gold Star **【Parent】** **Family** identification card or facsimile  
23 thereof in such a manner that it could be mistaken for a valid Gold  
24 Star **【Parent】** **Family** identification card, or to display or have in the  
25 person's possession any such photograph, photostat, duplicate,  
26 reproduction, or facsimile; or

27 f. To alter any Gold Star **【Parent】** **Family** identification card in  
28 any manner.

29 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.6)

30  
31 7. Section 7 of P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.14) is amended to  
32 read as follows:

33 7. The Gold Star **【Parent】** **Family** identification card issued  
34 under P.L.2017, c.289 (C.40A:9-78.8 et seq.), shall not be deemed  
35 sufficient valid proof of identity for official governmental purposes  
36 when a statute, regulation, or directive of a governmental entity  
37 requires proof of identity.

38 (cf: P.L.2017, c.289, s.7)

39  
40 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

41  
42  
43 STATEMENT

44  
45 This bill permits county clerks or registers of deeds and  
46 mortgages, as appropriate, to issue an identification card to Gold  
47 Star Families.

1 Under current law, county clerks or registers of deeds and  
2 mortgages, as appropriate, may issue an identification card to a  
3 Gold Star Parent. The bill expands eligibility for an identification  
4 card to include a Gold Star Family Member, which under the bill is,  
5 whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption, as applicable, a  
6 spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union, parent, legal  
7 guardian or other legal custodian, or child of a member of the  
8 Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard, who died  
9 while on active duty for the United States.

10 The cards are designed to help the families of members of the  
11 armed forces who lost their lives while on active duty for the United  
12 States receive discounts or other courtesies extended to military  
13 families.

14 Proof of status may include any or all of the following:

15 (1) a certification from an organization formed for the support  
16 of parents or other family members of members of the armed forces  
17 who lost their lives while on active duty for the United States, that  
18 the applicant is, whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption,  
19 as applicable, a spouse, domestic partner, partner in a civil union,  
20 parent, legal guardian or other legal custodian, or child of a member  
21 of the armed forces who died while on active duty for the United  
22 States;

23 (2) the service member's federal DD Form 1300, Report of  
24 Casualty, which identifies the member of the armed forces who died  
25 while on active duty for the United States; and

26 (3) documentation indicating the applicant's relationship to the  
27 service member.

28 The DD Form 1300 and the application will be kept confidential  
29 and will not be considered a government record under the open  
30 public records act.