SENATE, No. 3572 **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 ANTHONY M. BUCCO District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by: Senator Corrado

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Bring Veterans to New Jersey Program."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT As introduced.



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

AN ACT establishing the "Bring Veterans to New Jersey Program"
 and supplementing N.J.S.38A:3-6.

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

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1. a. There is established in the Department of Military and
Veterans' Affairs the "Bring Veterans to New Jersey Program." The
purpose of this program shall be to help New Jersey employers
recruit qualified veterans to fill positions in New Jersey by
providing relocation assistance to those veterans through eligible
employers. The department shall contract with a nonprofit
organization in New Jersey to administer the program.

14 b. The department shall enter into an agreement with 15 participating employers. A participating employer shall agree to 16 provide relocation assistance to an eligible veteran for eligible 17 expenses, which shall be reimbursed to the employer by the 18 department in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. The department 19 shall not provide relocation assistance directly to veterans, or 20 provide reimbursements to employers who have not entered into an 21 agreement with the department, or provide reimbursement to 22 employers for veterans who are not eligible.

c. The department shall develop criteria for the provision of
relocation assistance. To qualify for relocation assistance, a veteran
shall agree to relocate from another state to New Jersey to accept
employment with a participating employer and maintain that
employment for no less than 12 months.

d. A veteran who is employed with the participating employer 28 29 for less than 12 months shall reimburse the employer for the 30 relocation assistance, and the employer shall reimburse the 31 department. However, if the veteran's termination is not at fault of 32 the employee, including because of a family emergency, layoff, or 33 other situations of hardship, the department shall create a 34 mechanism and criteria to provide for partial or total forgiveness of 35 the reimbursement of relocation assistance.

36 e. In order to be eligible for receiving relocation assistance, a37 veteran shall:

(1) create a profile with the nonprofit contracted to administer
the program. A participating employer shall select and contact
candidates regarding available positions using the profiles; and

(2) after accepting a position, document the eligible expenses
necessary for reimbursement. Upon receipt of the documentation,
the participating employer shall reimburse the veteran for relocation
expenses that are eligible in accordance with its relocation policy or
procedure in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per household.

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f. The Adjutant General shall adopt, in accordance with the
 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B 1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the
 provisions of this act.

- 2. This act shall take effect 180 days after enactment.
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STATEMENT

11 This bill establishes the "Bring Veterans to New Jersey 12 Program" in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. This 13 program shall help New Jersey employers recruit qualified veterans 14 to fill positions in New Jersey by providing relocation assistance to 15 those qualified military veterans through eligible employers. The 16 department shall contract with a nonprofit organization in New 17 Jersey to administer the program.

18 The department shall enter into an agreement with participating 19 employers, who agree to provide relocation assistance to eligible 20 veterans for eligible expenses. The department shall reimburse these 21 expenses to participating employers in an amount not to exceed 22 \$5,000. The department shall develop criteria for the granting of 23 relocation assistance.

24 The process for receiving relocation assistance shall be as 25 follows:

(1) A veteran must create a profile with the nonprofit contracted
to administer the program. A participating employer shall use these
profiles to select and contact candidates regarding available
positions.

30 (2) After accepting a position, document the eligible expenses
31 necessary for reimbursement. Upon receipt of the documentation,
32 the participating employer shall reimburse the veteran for relocation
33 expenses that are eligible in accordance with its relocation policy or
34 procedure in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per household.
35 The Adjutant General may adopt rules and regulations necessary

36 to effectuate the program.