



NEW JERSEY NATIONAL GUARD
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
101 EGGERT CROSSING ROAD
LAWRENCEVILLE, NEW JERSEY 08648

NGNJ-PAO

25 April 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR Brigadier General Jemal Beale, The Adjutant General,
Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, 101 Eggerts Crossing Road, Lawrenceville,
NJ 08648

RE: Senate Budget Hearing Follow-up Questions from DMAVA

1. The following is the response to question from Senator Greenstein.
2. Senator Greenstein:
 - *With regard to the definition of who qualifies as a veteran in the State of New Jersey as defined in State law pursuant to N.J.S.A 43:15A-6; N.J.S.A 43:16A-11.7, N.J.S.A. 54:4-8.10, N.J.S.A. 53:5A-3, and N.J.S.A 18A:66-104, what would be fiscal impact to the State of New Jersey, if the State definition of a veteran were amended to be the same as a federal definition of a veteran?*
3. Answer:

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify a response to the committee's inquiry.

More than 102,000 of New Jersey's 340,000 veterans serve in the state civil service; however, 18,605 do not qualify for veterans preference under the current state definition. Based upon this rate of nonqualification, veterans preference for civil service and the accompanying consideration for pensions could increase payouts by at least 18% annually. Additionally, the Civil Service may incur information technology or administrative costs related to the improvement or expansion of server usage, applications, databases, etc.

As of September 30, 2018, approximately 84,000 veterans qualified for the \$250 property tax deduction, reimbursed by the State to the veterans' respective municipalities; however, just over one half of those veterans chose to claim it, for an estimated reimbursement of \$10,584,500.00. An expanded definition to include all 340,000 veterans with a concurrent claim rate could bring the reimbursement to at least \$47,862,250.00 annually. A claim rate of 100% of eligible veterans could increase the reimbursement to \$95,724,500.00 annually.

Again, thank you for your committee's consideration.

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4. The point of contact for this memorandum is LTC Barbara Brown, State Public Affairs Officer (PAO), at (609) 530-6939 or by email at barbara.g.brown26.mil@mail.mil.

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