

ASSEMBLY, No. 1040

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

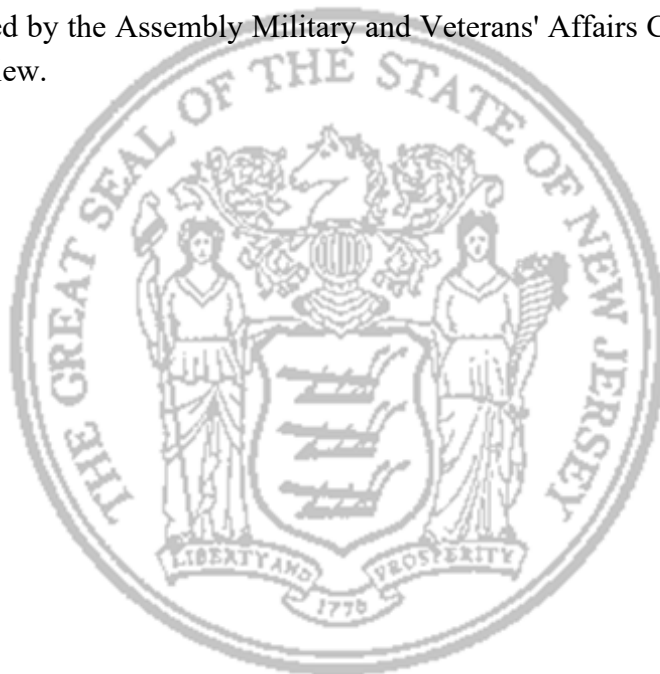
**Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblymen Moen, Tully, Sauickie,
Assemblywomen Lopez, Reynolds-Jackson, Drulis, McCoy, Assemblymen
Rumpf and Freiman**

SYNOPSIS

Provides for expansion of county transportation services to include disabled veterans; provides funding source for expansion.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee with technical review.



1 AN ACT concerning an expansion of county transportation services
2 for disabled veterans and amending P.L.2015, c.211.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2015, c.211 (C.38A:3-49) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. The Department of **【Military and】** Veterans Affairs shall
10 establish a program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-
11 patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to attend medical
12 counseling appointments for service-connected conditions approved
13 and authorized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
14 within this State.

15 The department shall:

16 a. develop, in cooperation with the New Jersey Transit
17 Corporation and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, a
18 program to provide reimbursement, subject to available State or
19 federal funding, to qualified veterans who spend their own funds to
20 travel on public transportation to and from medical counseling
21 appointments for service-connected conditions within the State using
22 any motor bus or rail passenger service conducted by the corporation
23 when the veteran is not otherwise eligible for payment for travel or
24 reimbursement by means of any existing State or federal program;

25 b. develop, in cooperation with the United States Department of
26 Veterans Affairs, a program to provide reimbursement to qualified
27 veterans who spend their own funds to travel using private
28 transportation to and from medical counseling appointments for
29 service-connected conditions within the State by reimbursing on a per
30 mile basis their operation of a privately-owned conveyance when that
31 veteran is not otherwise eligible for payment for travel or
32 reimbursement by means of any existing State or federal program,
33 provided that the qualified veteran shall not use a for-hire private
34 entity that charges for transportation unless such transportation is
35 necessary for the qualified veteran due to a service-connected injury or
36 disability for which the veteran has a certified rating provided by the
37 United States Department of Veterans Affairs which prevents or
38 hinders his or her ability to operate a privately-owned conveyance;

39 c. develop, in coordination with the United States Department of
40 Veterans Affairs, a system for monitoring veterans who have applied
41 for reimbursement;

42 d. notify the general public and eligible veterans that the program
43 established by this section is available to qualified veterans; **【and】**

44 e. adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to
45 effectuate the purposes of this **【act】** section; and

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 f. coordinate, with county governments, an expansion of existing
2 county-administered transit service under the Senior Citizens and
3 Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program to provide
4 transportation services to disabled veterans to and from medical
5 counseling appointments for service-connected conditions within the
6 State by helping counties to identify transportation service needs in the
7 veterans community for the purposes outlined in this subsection and
8 providing financial assistance to the counties to cover the cost of such
9 service expansions, in addition to monies appropriated pursuant to
10 section 4 of P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-28). As used in this subsection,
11 "disabled veteran" means any citizen and resident of this State now or
12 hereafter honorably discharged or released under honorable
13 circumstances from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces
14 of the United States, a Reserve component thereof, or the National
15 Guard and who has been or shall be declared by the United States
16 Veterans Administration, or its successor, to have a service-connected
17 disability.

18 (cf: P.L.2015, c.211, s.1)

19
20 2. Section 4 of P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-28) is amended to read
21 as follows:

22 4. a. The board shall establish and administer a program to be
23 known as "The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation
24 Assistance Program" for the following purposes:

25 (1) To assist counties to develop and provide accessible feeder
26 transportation service to accessible fixed-route transportation
27 services where such services are available, and accessible local
28 transit service to senior citizens and the disabled, which may
29 include but not be limited to door-to-door service, fixed route
30 service, local fare subsidy, and user-side subsidy, which may
31 include but not be limited to private ride or taxi fare subsidy; and to
32 coordinate the activities of the various participants in this program
33 in providing the services to be rendered at the county level and
34 between counties; and

35 (2) To enable the corporation to develop, provide and maintain
36 capital improvements that afford accessibility to fixed route and
37 other transit services in order to make rail cars, rail stations, bus
38 shelters and other bus equipment accessible to senior citizens and
39 the disabled; to render technical information and assistance to
40 counties eligible for assistance under this act; and to coordinate the
41 program within and among counties.

42 b. In the State fiscal year beginning July 1 following the
43 effective date of P.L.2009, c.261 and in each fiscal year thereafter,
44 there shall be appropriated to the corporation from the revenues
45 deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund established pursuant to
46 section 145 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-145) a sum equal to 8.5
47 percent of the revenues deposited in the fund during the preceding

1 fiscal year, as determined by the State Treasurer, to effectuate the
2 purposes and provisions of P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.).

3 Of the amounts appropriated to the corporation from the Casino
4 Revenue Fund pursuant to this subsection, 4 percent of the amount
5 appropriated to the corporation shall be used to issue grants to
6 counties for the purpose of providing transportation services to
7 disabled veterans to and from medical counseling appointments for
8 service-connected conditions, across county boundaries, but within
9 the State pursuant to subsection f. of section 1 of P.L.2015, c.211
10 (C.38A:3-49).

11 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, or
12 regulation to the contrary, for the State Fiscal Years 2022, 2023,
13 and 2024, appropriations to the corporation from the revenues
14 deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund or the Property Tax Relief
15 Fund, as appropriate, shall be given priority to ensure that the
16 corporation receives an amount equal to 8.5 percent of the sum of
17 the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund during the
18 preceding fiscal year, adding back any reductions in revenues
19 during the preceding fiscal year that directly resulted from the
20 temporary credit allowable under section 1 of P.L.2021, c.314 or
21 the temporary deduction allowable under section 3 of the P.L.2021,
22 c.314, as determined by the State Treasurer, to effectuate the
23 purposes and provisions of P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.).
24 (cf: P.L.2021, c.314, s.6)

25
26 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
27 next following enactment, except that the Department of **【Military**
28 **and】** Veterans Affairs may take any anticipatory administrative
29 action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of
30 this act.