

ASSEMBLY, No. 2355

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblywoman ROSAURA "ROSY" BAGOLIE

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Webber, Assemblywomen Kane and Reynolds-Jackson

SYNOPSIS

Requires issuance of one free copy of birth certificate to military veteran.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

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



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/24/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning birth certificates and amending R.S.26:8-63.

2

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

5

6 1. R.S.26:8-63 is amended to read as follows:

7 26:8-63. The State registrar shall:

8 a. Furnish a certification or certified copy of a birth, marriage,
9 civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death or death certificate
10 without fee in the prosecution of any claim for public pension or for
11 military or naval enlistment purposes; and

12 b. Furnish the United States Public Health Service without
13 expense to the State, microfilm or photocopy images of birth,
14 marriage, civil union, domestic partnership, fetal death and death
15 certificates without payment of the fees prescribed in this article;
16 and

17 c. Furnish a certified transcript of any entry in the records of
18 the New Jersey State census without fee for certification in the
19 prosecution of any claim for public pension, for military or naval
20 enlistment purposes; and

21 d. Furnish without fee upon request for administrative use by
22 any city, State or federal agency a certified transcript of any New
23 Jersey State census entry, or a certification or certified copy of a
24 birth, death, fetal death, marriage, civil union or domestic
25 partnership certificate; and

26 e. Furnish without fee upon request a certified copy of a
27 veteran's death certificate to the veteran's legal representative, the
28 executor or administrator of the veteran's estate, **[or]** to a family
29 member authorized to obtain a copy of the death certificate pursuant
30 to subsection a. of R.S.26:8-62, or to a qualified veterans'
31 organization which takes possession of a veteran's remains with
32 the intention of properly disposing of them pursuant to section 2 of
33 P.L.1983, c.385 (C.26:7-18.2). No more than one copy of a
34 veteran's death certificate may be provided without fee pursuant to
35 this subsection; all other copies of the death certificate shall be
36 subject to the statutory fee; and

37 f. Furnish without fee upon request by a person who is
38 homeless a certified copy of the person's birth certificate, provided
39 that the person submits the request through a social worker or the
40 coordinator of the emergency shelter for the homeless where the
41 person is temporarily residing. The request shall be transmitted on
42 the emergency shelter's letterhead and shall include the shelter's
43 employer identification number and an attestation by the
44 coordinator that the person requesting the certificate is currently
45 homeless and residing at the shelter or the request shall be

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 submitted on the social worker's agency or professional practice
2 letterhead and shall include the agency's or the professional
3 practice's employer identification number and an attestation by the
4 social worker that the person requesting the certificate is currently
5 homeless. A certified copy of a birth certificate furnished pursuant
6 to this subsection shall be transmitted to the social worker or
7 coordinator who transmitted the request. No more than one
8 certified copy of a birth certificate furnished to a person who is
9 homeless pursuant to this subsection shall be provided without fee;
10 all other copies of the birth certificate shall be subject to the
11 statutory fee. On or before December 31 of each year, the State
12 Registrar shall report to the Office of Homelessness Prevention in
13 the Department of Community Affairs an accounting of each
14 instance in which the State Registrar furnished without fee a
15 certified copy of a person's birth certificate pursuant to this
16 subsection; and

17 g. Furnish, without fee, and upon the request of a veteran who
18 was born in this State, a certified copy of the veteran's birth
19 certificate. No more than one certified copy of a birth certificate
20 shall be furnished to a veteran without fee pursuant to this
21 subsection. All other copies of the birth certificate shall be subject
22 to the statutory fee.

23 As used in this section:

24 "Fee" includes, but is not limited to, any search, certification,
25 processing, authentication, standard shipping, or other fees that
26 would ordinarily be assessed to furnish a certified copy of a
27 certificate or transcript【; and】.

28 "Person who is homeless " means a person without a domicile
29 who is unable to secure permanent and stable housing as determined
30 by a social worker or the coordinator of an emergency shelter for
31 the homeless established pursuant to P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et
32 seq.).

33 "Veteran" means any individual who has been discharged or
34 released from service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the
35 United States, or any discharged member of the American Merchant
36 Marine who served during World War II and is declared by the
37 United States Department of Defense to be eligible for federal
38 veterans' benefits. "Veteran" shall not include an individual
39 discharged or released under dishonorable circumstances.

40 (cf: P.L.2021, c.37, s.2)

41

42 2. The Commissioner of Health shall, pursuant to the
43 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
44 seq.), promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions
45 of this act.

46

47 3. This act shall take effect immediately.