

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 259**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 8, 2021

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 259.

This bill provides civil service preference to military service members who did not serve in a theater of operation but did serve during a war or conflict for which the federal government authorized a campaign or expedition medal. The Veterans' Preference Act of 1944, codified in Title 5 of the United States Code, governs civil service credit and preference in appointments to federal employment. One such preference is provided to a veteran who served "in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign medal has been authorized." This includes campaign or expeditionary medals for El Salvador, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Southwest Asia, Somalia, and Haiti.

Under this bill, a veteran who received such a medal but did not serve in a theater of operation, will be eligible for State civil service preference.

A campaign medal is generally awarded for participation in a military action involving, among other things, large-scale military operations, active, opposing, and hostile forces, combat operations that take place over a sustained period of time, specific and limited periods of eligibility, and deployment involving extended family separation and personal inconvenience.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2020-2021 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.