

ASSEMBLY, No. 274

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Mazzeo and Assemblywoman Murphy

SYNOPSIS

Establishes program to provide assistance to qualified veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment programs to travel to medical counseling in State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a program to provide travel assistance to
2 certain veterans, and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 38A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes and chapter 25 of Title 27 of the Revised
4 Statutes.

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

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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
12 medical counseling appointments for service-connected conditions
13 approved and authorized by the United States Department of
14 Veterans Affairs 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,
18 a 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
22 using any motor bus or rail passenger service conducted by the
23 corporation when the veteran is not otherwise eligible for payment
24 for travel or reimbursement by means of any existing State or
25 federal program;

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

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

43 d. notify the general public and eligible veterans that the
44 program established by this section is available to qualified
45 veterans; and

46 e. adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary to
47 effectuate the purposes of this act.

1 2. The New Jersey Transit Corporation shall cooperate with the
2 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to provide receipts or
3 other proof of travel to veterans in in-patient and out-patient
4 treatment programs who have been qualified to use any motorbus or
5 rail passenger service pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
6 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), so that they may be
7 reimbursed for travel to attend medical counseling appointments for
8 service-connected conditions within this State when they are not
9 otherwise eligible for payment for travel or reimbursement through
10 any other State or federal program.

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12 3. This act shall take effect on the 180th day following the date
13 of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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18 Under this bill, the State Department of Military and Veterans'
19 Affairs (DMVA) is to establish a program to provide travel
20 assistance to qualified veterans in inpatient and out-patient
21 treatment programs to travel to attend medical counseling
22 appointments for service-connected conditions approved and
23 authorized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
24 within this State.

25 Specifically, the department would:

26 a. develop, in cooperation with New Jersey Transit and the
27 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, a program to provide
28 reimbursement to qualified veterans who spend their own funds to
29 travel on public transportation to and from medical counseling
30 appointments for service-connected conditions within the State
31 using any motor bus or rail passenger service conducted by the
32 corporation when the veteran is not otherwise eligible for payment
33 for travel or reimbursement by means of any existing State or
34 federal program;

35 b. develop, in cooperation with the United States Department
36 of Veterans Affairs, a program to provide reimbursement to
37 qualified veterans who spend their own funds to travel using private
38 transportation to and from medical counseling appointments for
39 service-connected conditions within the State by reimbursing on a
40 per mile basis their operation of a privately-owned conveyance
41 when that veteran is not otherwise eligible for payment for travel or
42 reimbursement by means of any existing State or federal program;

43 c. develop, in coordination with the United States Department
44 of Veterans Affairs, a system for monitoring veterans who have
45 applied for reimbursement; and

46 d. notify the general public and eligible veterans that the
47 program established by this bill is available to qualified veterans.

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1 As part of the program to be established by this bill, New Jersey
2 Transit is to cooperate with DMVA to provide receipts or other
3 proof of travel to veterans in in-patient and out-patient treatment
4 programs who have been qualified to use any motorbus or rail
5 passenger service so that they may be reimbursed for travel to
6 attend medical counseling appointments for service-connected
7 conditions within this State when they are not otherwise eligible for
8 payment for travel or reimbursement through any other State or
9 federal program.