

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2559

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

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Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

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Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Freiman, Assemblywomen

Lopez, Downey, Assemblymen Houghtaling, Stanley, Conaway,

Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywomen DiMaso,

Mosquera and Tucker

SYNOPSIS

Increases allowance paid to war veterans with certain service-connected disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee on November 8, 2021, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/6/2021)

1 AN ACT providing for an increase to the allowance paid to veterans
2 with certain wartime service-connected disabilities, and
3 amending various parts of the statutory law.

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

7
8 1. R.S.38:18-2 is amended to read as follows:

9 38:18-2. A soldier, who has sustained a total loss of sight as a
10 result of his service during any of the wars mentioned in section 1
11 of this chapter, shall be paid for the term of his life, and upon his
12 death his surviving spouse shall be paid, provided that the soldier or
13 surviving spouse shall continue as a resident of this State, the sum
14 of **[\$750.00]** \$1,800 annually, in monthly payments. Such
15 payments shall be due and payable from the date of discharge or
16 release of the soldier if application therefor shall be made within
17 one year from the date of such discharge or release. If the
18 application shall be made one year from the date of discharge or
19 release of the soldier such payments shall be due and payable from
20 the date of such application. Accrued payments to the date of
21 certification shall be paid in one lump sum.

22 (cf: P.L.1985, c.116, s.1)

23

24 2. R.S.38:18-3 is amended to read as follows:

25 38:18-3. Evidence of the service and disability mentioned in this
26 chapter shall be furnished to the ¹Division of Veterans Services of
27 the¹ Department of ¹**[Economic Development]** Military and
28 Veterans Affairs¹, which shall examine the same and upon being
29 satisfied that the service was performed and the soldier has been
30 rendered totally blind as a result thereof, shall so certify to the
31 ¹**[State Comptroller]** Director of the Division of Budget and
32 Accounting¹ who shall, upon receipt thereof, draw ¹**[his]** a¹
33 warrant on the State Treasurer in favor of the applicant in a bulk
34 sum for any accrued payments and in the sum of **[\$750.00]** \$1,800
35 annually, which the State Treasurer shall pay out of the money
36 appropriated therefor by the Legislature.

37 (cf: P.L.1971, c.329, s.2)

38

39 3. Section 2 of P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-2) is amended to
40 read as follows:

41 2. A veteran who served in the active military or naval forces
42 of the United States and who has paraplegia and permanent
43 paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body, or who has
44 osteochondritis and permanent loss of the use of both legs, or who

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AMV committee amendments adopted November 8, 2021.

1 has hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm or
2 either side of the body, resulting from injury to the spinal cord,
3 skeletal structure, or brain, or who has had both hands, both feet, or
4 one hand and one foot amputated, or who has lost the use of both
5 feet or both legs, due to multiple sclerosis, sustained through enemy
6 action, or accident, or resulting from disease contracted while in
7 active military or naval service, shall be paid for the term of the
8 veteran's life, and upon the veteran's death the surviving spouse,
9 domestic partner, or partner in civil union shall be paid, the sum of
10 **[\$750]** \$1,800 annually in monthly payments. Such payments shall
11 be due and payable from the date of discharge or release of the
12 veteran if application therefor shall be made within one year from
13 the date of such discharge or release. If the application shall be
14 made after one year from the date of discharge or release of the
15 veteran, such payment shall be due and payable from the date of
16 such application. Accrued payments to the date of certification shall
17 be paid in one lump sum.

18 Nothing in P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-1 et seq.) shall be
19 intended to include paraplegia or hemiplegia resulting from
20 locomotor ataxia or other forms of syphilis of the central nervous
21 system or from chronic alcohol use disorder, or to include other
22 forms of disease resulting from the veteran's own misconduct which
23 may produce signs and symptoms similar to those resulting from
24 paraplegia, osteochondritis, hemiplegia, or multiple sclerosis.
25 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.146)
26

27 4. Section 3 of P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-3) is amended to
28 read as follows:

29 3. Evidence of the service and disability mentioned in this act
30 shall be furnished to the Division of **[Veterans']** Veterans Services
31 of the Department of **[Human Services]** Military and Veterans
32 Affairs, which shall examine the same and upon being satisfied that
33 the service was performed and the veteran has been rendered
34 permanently paralyzed or has permanently lost the use of both legs,
35 or has suffered amputation, as defined in section 2 of this act, shall
36 so certify to the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting
37 in the Department of the Treasury, who shall, upon receipt thereof,
38 draw **[his]** a warrant on the State Treasurer in favor of the
39 applicant in the sum of **[\$750.00]** \$1,800 annually, which the State
40 Treasurer shall pay out of the money appropriated therefor by the
41 Legislature.

42 (cf: P.L.1981, c.424, s.3).
43

44 5. This act shall take effect on January 1 next following the
45 date of enactment.