

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2559**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

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**Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Freiman, Assemblywomen**

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**Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywomen DiMaso,**

**Mosquera, Tucker, Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle,**

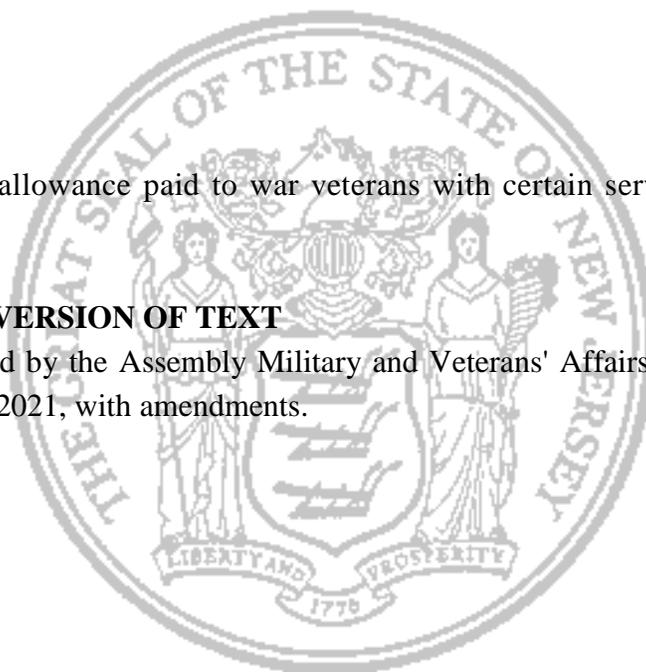
**Lampitt and Jimenez**

**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 December 9, 2021, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/20/2021)**

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 <sup>2</sup>~~section 1~~  
11 of this chapter] R.S.38:18-1<sup>2</sup>, shall be paid for the term of his life,  
12 and upon his death his surviving spouse shall be paid, provided that  
13 the soldier or surviving spouse shall continue as a resident of this  
14 State, the sum of ~~[\$750.00]~~ \$1,800 annually, in monthly payments.  
15 Such payments shall be due and payable from the date of discharge  
16 or 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  
26 <sup>2</sup>~~[this chapter]~~ R.S.38:18-1<sup>2</sup> shall be furnished to the <sup>1</sup>Division of  
27 Veterans Services of the<sup>1</sup> Department of <sup>1</sup>~~[Economic~~  
28 ~~Development]~~ Military and Veterans Affairs<sup>1</sup>, which shall examine  
29 the same and upon being satisfied that the service was performed  
30 and the soldier has been rendered totally blind as a result thereof,  
31 shall so certify to the <sup>1</sup>~~[State Comptroller]~~ Director of the Division  
32 of Budget and Accounting<sup>1</sup> who shall, upon receipt thereof, draw  
33 <sup>1</sup>~~[his]~~ a<sup>1</sup> warrant on the State Treasurer in favor of the applicant in  
34 a bulk sum for any accrued payments and in the sum of ~~[\$750.00]~~  
35 \$1,800 annually, which the State Treasurer shall pay out of the  
36 money 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:**

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AMV committee amendments adopted November 8, 2021.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AMV committee amendments adopted December 9, 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<sup>2</sup>,  
30 P.L.1947, c.263 (C.38:18A-1 et seq.),<sup>2</sup> shall be furnished to the  
31 Division of **[Veterans']** Veterans Services of the Department of  
32 **[Human Services]** Military and Veterans Affairs, which shall  
33 examine the same and upon being satisfied that the service was  
34 performed and the veteran has been rendered permanently paralyzed  
35 or has permanently lost the use of both legs, or has suffered  
36 amputation, as defined in section 2 of this act, shall so certify to the  
37 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the  
38 Department of the Treasury, who shall, upon receipt thereof, draw  
39 **[his]** a warrant on the State Treasurer in favor of the applicant in  
40 the sum of **[\$750.00]** \$1,800 annually, which the State Treasurer  
41 shall pay out of the money appropriated therefor by the 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.