

ASSEMBLY, No. 3226

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Waives pet adoption fees for certain military personnel and veterans.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning pet adoption fees for military personnel and
2 veterans and supplementing P.L.1941 c.151 (4:19-15.1 et seq.).
3

4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:
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7 1. a. No kennel, shelter, or pound, that is owned and operated
8 by a local government unit, shall charge a pet adoption fee for a
9 domestic companion animal to a person who is:

10 (1) an active member of the New Jersey National Guard who has
11 completed Initial Active Duty Training;

12 (2) an active member of any branch or department of the Armed
13 Forces of the United States, or a reserve component thereof; or

14 (3) a veteran.

15 b. The Secretary of Agriculture shall prescribe by rule or
16 regulation the types of evidence that may be used to qualify a
17 person for the benefit established pursuant to this section.

18 c. The owner or operator of a kennel, shelter, or pound may
19 review the pet adoption fee and, if appropriate, adjust the pet
20 adoption fee to offset any cost increases associated with forgoing
21 the pet adoption fee for eligible individuals pursuant to subsection
22 a. of this section.

23 d. As used in this section:

24 "Domestic companion animal" means any animal commonly
25 referred to as a pet or one that has been bought, bred, raised or
26 otherwise acquired, in accordance with local ordinances and State
27 and federal law, for the primary purpose of providing
28 companionship to the owner, rather than for business or agricultural
29 purposes.

30 "Initial Active Duty Training" means Basic Military Training,
31 for members of the New Jersey Air National Guard, and Basic
32 Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, for members
33 of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

34 "Kennel " means a kennel as defined in section 1 of P.L.1941,
35 c.151 (C.4:19-15.1).

36 "Pet adoption fee" means any costs related to a veterinary
37 wellness visit and exam, spaying or neutering, distemper
38 vaccination, bordetella vaccination, rabies vaccination, deworming
39 medication, flea and tick treatment, canine heartworm test, feline
40 leukemia test, spay and neuter surgery, follow-up examination,
41 collar and an identification tag, and administrative charges.

42 "Pound" means a pound as defined in section 1 of P.L.1941,
43 c.151 (C.4:19-15.1).

44 "Shelter" means a shelter as defined in section 1 of P.L.1941,
45 c.151 (C.4:19-15.1).

46 "Veteran" means any resident of the State who has been
47 honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances
48 from active military service in any of the Armed Forces of the

1 United States, or a reserve component thereof, or any honorably
2 discharged member of the American Merchant Marine who served
3 during World War II and is declared by the United States
4 Department of Defense to be eligible for federal veterans' benefits
5 and any officer, soldier, sailor, marine, airman, nurse or army field
6 clerk, who has served in the active military or naval service of the
7 United States and has or shall be discharged or released therefrom
8 under conditions other than dishonorable.

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10 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill would provide that the following persons would be
16 entitled to adopt a domestic companion animal without paying a pet
17 adoption fee from a licensed kennel, shelter, or pound: (1) an active
18 member of the New Jersey National Guard who has completed
19 Initial Active Duty Training; (2) an active member of any branch or
20 department of the Armed Forces of the United States, or reserves
21 component thereof; and (3) a veteran.

22 The bill authorizes the owner or operator of a kennel, shelter, or
23 pound to review and adjust the pet adoption fee to offset any cost
24 increases associated with forgoing the pet adoption fee for eligible
25 military personnel and veterans.