

ASSEMBLY, No. 5111

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires periodic increases in personal needs allowance and prepaid burial allowance for residents of New Jersey veterans' memorial homes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT concerning allowances for veterans in New Jersey
2 veterans' memorial homes and amending P.L.1989, c.162.

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

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7 1. Section 6 of P.L.1989, c.162 (C.38A:3-6.8) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 6. a. A person admitted to a veterans' facility shall be entitled
10 to all of its benefits and be furnished with clothing, subsistence,
11 medical and surgical attendance, necessary to promote his health
12 and welfare in accordance with the rules and regulations of the
13 Adjutant General.

14 b. A person admitted to a veterans' facility who has no source
15 of funds shall be provided a monthly allowance for personal needs
16 of \$90.00 commencing on September 1 next after the effective date
17 of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), which
18 amount shall be adjusted by the State Treasurer every 48 months to
19 reflect the cumulative increases in the Consumer Price Index for a
20 calendar year as determined year to year using the decimal increase
21 in the September through August 12-month average for the previous
22 year of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-
23 U) as published by the United States Department of Labor.

24 c. Prepaid burial fund allowances shall be set at a face value of
25 \$15,000 commencing on September 1 next after the effective date
26 of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), which
27 amount shall be adjusted by the State Treasurer every 48 months to
28 reflect the cumulative increases in the Consumer Price Index for a
29 calendar year as determined year to year using the decimal increase
30 in the September through August 12-month average for the previous
31 year of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-
32 U) as published by the United States Department of Labor.

33 (cf: P.L.1989, c.162, s.6)

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35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill increases from \$50 to \$90 the monthly personal needs
41 allowance of residents of the veterans' memorial homes operated by
42 the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs who have no
43 source of income. In addition, the bill increases the prepaid burial
44 allowance from \$12,000 to \$15,000 required to be prepaid by all
45 residents of the veterans' memorial homes operated by the

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.

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1 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. The bill requires the
2 State Treasurer to adjust the allowances every four years based on
3 the Consumer Price Index.

4 The current monthly personal needs allowance of \$50 and the
5 prepaid burial allowance of \$12,000 are provided for in regulations,
6 but they are not adjusted regularly on a periodic basis to account for
7 the effects of inflation. The \$50 monthly personal needs allowance
8 was last increased more than 20 years ago and the prepaid burial
9 fund allowance was last increased in 2008.

10 The bill addresses this matter in two ways. First, it increases the
11 personal needs allowance and prepaid burial allowance amounts
12 immediately to the amounts that would be in place if inflation
13 adjustments had been made every four years since those rates took
14 effect. Second, it provides for inflation adjustments to continue to
15 occur every four years after the bill becomes law. This is to ensure
16 that the veterans who reside in the State's veterans memorial homes
17 will not see their personal needs allowances eroded by inflation for
18 many years before an adjustment is made, and that the limit on
19 prepaid burial fund allowances accounts for likely increases in the
20 cost of funerals.