

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 22**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

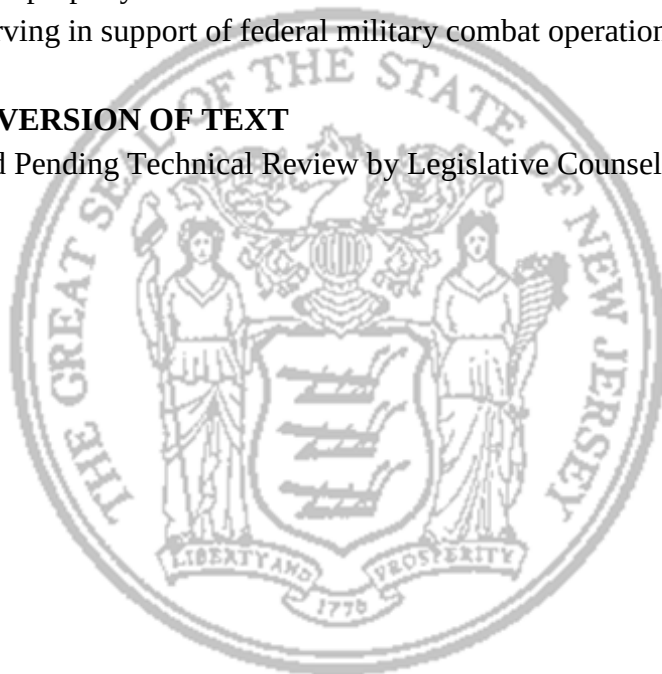
**Assemblyman Benson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Proposes amendment to constitution to provide civil service hiring preference and property tax deduction to veteran who received badge, medal, or ribbon for serving in support of federal military combat operation.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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

1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend Article VII,  
2       Section I, paragraph 2, and Article VIII, Section I, paragraph 3  
3       of the New Jersey Constitution.

4  
5       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
6       *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

7  
8       1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of  
9       the State of New Jersey is agree to:

10  
11                               PROPOSED AMENDMENT

12  
13       a. Amend Article VII, Section I, paragraph 2 to read as  
14       follows:

15       2. Appointments and promotions in the civil service of the  
16       State, and of such political subdivisions as may be provided by law,  
17       shall be made according to merit and fitness to be ascertained, as far  
18       as practicable, by examination, which, as far as practicable, shall be  
19       competitive; except that preference in appointments by reason of  
20       active service in any branch of the military or naval forces of the  
21       United States in time of war, or in support of combat operations for  
22       which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the service  
23       member, may be provided by law.

24       (cf: Art. VII, Sec. I, par. 2)

25       b. Amend Article VIII, Section 1, paragraph 3 to read as  
26       follows:

27       3. Any citizen and resident of this State now or hereafter  
28       honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances  
29       from active service, in time of war or other emergency as, from  
30       time to time, defined by the Legislature, or in support of combat  
31       operations for which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the  
32       service member, in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United  
33       States shall be entitled, annually to a deduction from the amount of  
34       any tax bill for taxes on real and personal property, or both,  
35       including taxes attributable to a residential unit held by a  
36       stockholder in a cooperative or mutual housing corporation, in the  
37       sum of \$50 or if the amount of any such tax bill shall be less than  
38       \$50, to a cancellation thereof, except that the deduction or  
39       cancellation shall be \$100 in tax year 2000, \$150 in tax year 2001,  
40       \$200 in tax year 2002 and \$250 in each tax year thereafter. The  
41       deduction or cancellation shall not be altered or repealed. Any  
42       person hereinabove described who has been or shall be declared by  
43       the United States Veterans Administration, or its successor, to have  
44       a service-connected disability, shall be entitled to such further  
45       deduction from taxation as from time to time may be provided by

**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.

1 law. The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State  
2 who has met or shall meet his or her death on active duty in time of  
3 war or of other emergency as so defined, or in support of combat  
4 operations for which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the  
5 service member, in any such service shall be entitled, during her  
6 widowhood or his widowerhood, as the case may be, and while a  
7 resident of this State, to the deduction or cancellation in this  
8 paragraph provided for honorably discharged veterans and to such  
9 further deduction as from time to time may be provided by law.  
10 The surviving spouse of any citizen and resident of this State who  
11 has had or shall hereafter have active service in time of war or of  
12 other emergency as so defined, or in support of combat operations  
13 for which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the service  
14 member, in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States  
15 and who died or shall die while on active duty in any branch of the  
16 Armed Forces of the United States, or who has been or may  
17 hereafter be honorably discharged or released under honorable  
18 circumstances from active service in time of war or of other  
19 emergency as so defined, or in support of combat operations for  
20 which a badge, medal, or ribbon was awarded to the service  
21 member, in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States  
22 shall be entitled, during her widowhood or his widowerhood, as the  
23 case may be, and while a resident of this State, to the deduction or  
24 cancellation in this paragraph provided for honorably discharged  
25 veterans and to such further deductions as from time to time may be  
26 provided by law.

27 (cf: Art. VIII, Sec. I, par. 3, amended effective December 2, 1999)

28

29 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally  
30 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it  
31 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election  
32 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and  
33 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each  
34 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
35 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three  
36 months prior to the general election.

37

38 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be  
39 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and  
40 form:

41 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the  
42 general election, the following:

43 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used, a  
44 legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

45 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus  
46 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are  
47 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the  
48 square opposite the word "No."

1        b. In every municipality the following question:

|  |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | YES | <p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW VETERANS WITH SERVICE BADGE, MEDAL, OR RIBBON TO RECEIVE CIVIL SERVICE HIRING PREFERENCE AND PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION</p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to give a civil service hiring preference to a veteran who has a badge, medal, or ribbon for serving in support of military combat operations?</p> <p>The amendment also gives those same veterans a property tax deduction.</p>                                                                 |
|  | NO  | <p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>This change to the Constitution would expand the number of veterans eligible for a civil service hiring preference. The amendment would also expand the number of veterans eligible for a property tax deduction. These benefits would be given to a veteran who was awarded a badge, medal, or ribbon for serving in support of military combat operations. At present, only veterans who served in time of war or other emergency are eligible for these benefits.</p> |

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STATEMENT

6        At present, the State Constitution allows a veteran who served in  
7 time of war to receive a civil service hiring preference for public  
8 employment, and allows a veteran who served in time of war or  
9 during other emergency to receive a property tax deduction.  
10       This proposed amendment would make a veteran eligible for  
11 these benefits if the veteran served in support of a federal military  
12 combat operation and received a badge, medal, or ribbon.  
13       The criteria for a badge, medal, or ribbon is determined by the  
14 federal government and generally include, but are not limited to,  
15 military operations with active or potentially active opposing hostile  
16 forces and performance under enemy fire with a risk of grave  
17 danger.