P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 340, ***approved January 10, 2022***
Senate, No. 2817

AN ACT concerning document required to claim veterans' preference for civil service and amending P.L.2000, c.127.

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

1. Section 3 of P.L.2000, c.127 (C.11A:5-1.1) is amended to read as follows:

3. a. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall be responsible for determining whether any person seeking to be considered a "veteran" or a "disabled veteran" under N.J.S.11A:5-1, for the purpose of receiving civil service preference, meets the criteria set forth therein and adjudicating an appeal from any person disputing this determination. The determination of the Adjutant General shall apply only prospectively from the date of initial determination or date of determination from an appeal, as appropriate, and shall be binding upon the commission.

b. A person seeking to be considered a "veteran" or a "disabled veteran" under N.J.S.11A:5-1, for the purpose of receiving civil service preference, who has not yet been issued Form DD-214 as proof of military service may submit, in lieu thereof, an official certification or verification of military service statement or letter that provides the date of entry into military service, the estimated date of discharge or release, the character of the discharge, and such other information as the Adjutant General shall require. The Adjutant General shall specify the form, content, and source for an official certification or verification of military service statement or letter based on such statements or letters that are approved and provided by the federal military authorities.

The person shall submit to the Adjutant General the Form DD-214 no later than 30 days from the date the person receives the form. If a copy is not provided, the prior determination of veteran status shall be revoked.

(cf: P.L.2008, c.29, s.43)

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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.

STATEMENT

This bill would allow a person seeking veterans' preference for civil service purposes who has not yet been issued the official Form DD-214 as proof of military service to submit, in lieu thereof, an official certification or verification of military service statement or letter that provides the date of entry into military service, the estimated date of discharge or release, the character of the discharge, and such other information as the Adjutant General shall require. The Adjutant General will specify the form, content, and source for an official certification or verification of military service statement or letter based on such statements or letters that are approved and provided by the federal military authorities.

The person must submit to the Adjutant General the Form DD-214 no later than 30 days from the date the person receives the form. If a copy is not provided, the prior determination of veteran status will be revoked.

In order to receive veterans' preference on a civil service application, the regulations of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs require a veteran to submit a copy of Form DD-214, or another document if military records have been destroyed.

This bill would allow a person who is still on active military duty, but who expects to be discharged or released soon, to begin the process of securing veterans' preference before discharge occurs.

Allows active duty service members to provide document other than DD-214 when claiming veterans' preference for civil service.