

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 259

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

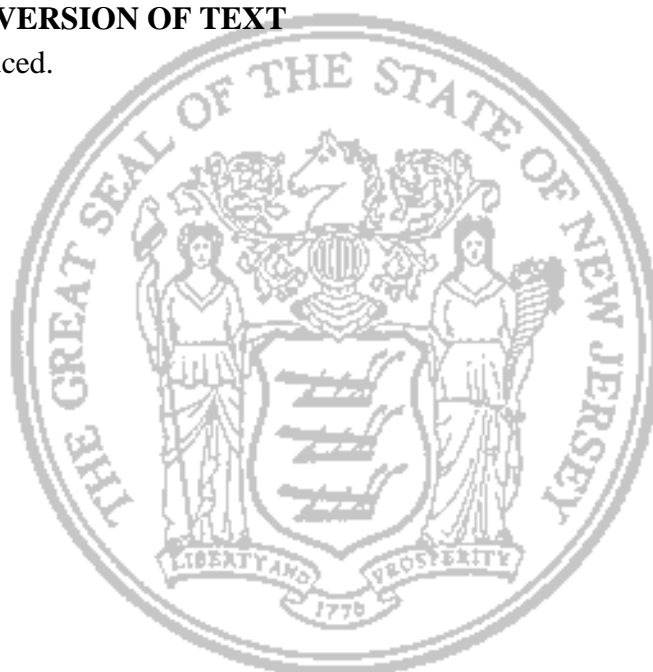
Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywoman Jimenez, Assemblymen Danielsen, Wirths, Space, Freiman, Assemblywomen Murphy, Lopez and Assemblyman Houghtaling

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to pass “Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2021)

AR259 SWAIN, TULLY

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1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION urging Congress to pass the “Veterans
2 Economic Recovery Act of 2021.”

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4 WHEREAS, The coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic has caused
5 millions of Americans to lose their jobs through no fault of their
6 own, and many of the job losses are permanent; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2020, the unemployment rate among veterans rose to
8 6.5 percent, after having been just 3.1 percent in 2019; and

9 WHEREAS, Of the 462,000 veterans unemployed at the beginning of
10 2021, more than 81 percent are of prime working age, between 22
11 and 66 years old; and

12 WHEREAS, The “Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021” (H.R.
13 637) would create a program to retrain unemployed veterans and
14 members of the National Guard or Reserve with up to 12 months of
15 education benefits to pursue training in high-demand occupations;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, These benefits would be equivalent to the benefits
18 provided under the post-9/11 GI Bill, focusing on veterans who are
19 not currently eligible for those GI Bill benefits; and

20 WHEREAS, Members of the National Guard or Reserve who were
21 mobilized on federal orders to assist with State responses to the
22 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic would also be eligible for the
23 training program; and

24 WHEREAS, According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the
25 unemployment rate for veterans in New Jersey in 2020 was 8.1
26 percent, higher than the national average; and

27 WHEREAS, This legislation would therefore be of particular benefit
28 to the population of unemployed veterans who call New Jersey
29 home; and

30 WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper for the United States to provide
31 these benefits to veterans who have lost their jobs as a result of the
32 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, and to National Guard or
33 Reserve members who have given up their t
34 ime and safety to serve the public during the coronavirus disease
35 2019 pandemic; now, therefore,

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37 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
38 Jersey:

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40 1. The United States Congress is urged to pass the “Veterans
41 Economic Recovery Act of 2021” to provide unemployed veterans
42 and members of the National Guard and Reserves with education
43 benefits to pursue training in high-demand occupations.

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45 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
46 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
47 presiding officers of the Congress of the United States and each

1 member of the United States Congress elected from the State of
2 New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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7 This Assembly resolution urges the United States Congress to
8 pass the “Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021,” to provide
9 unemployed veterans and members of the National Guard and
10 Reserves with education benefits to pursue training in high-demand
11 occupations.

12 As of December 2020, the unemployment rate among veterans
13 rose to 6.5 percent, after having been just 3.1 percent in 2019, and
14 of the 462,000 veterans unemployed at the beginning of 2021, more
15 than 81 percent are of prime working age, between 22 and 66 years
16 old. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment
17 rate for veterans in New Jersey in 2020 was 8.1 percent, higher than
18 the national average.

19 The “Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021” would create a
20 program to retrain unemployed veterans and members of the
21 National Guard or Reserve with 12 months of education benefits to
22 pursue training in high-demand occupations. These benefits would
23 be equivalent to the benefits provided under the post-9/11 GI Bill,
24 focusing on veterans who are not currently eligible for those GI Bill
25 benefits. Members of the National Guard or Reserve who were
26 mobilized on federal orders to assist with state responses to the
27 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic would also be eligible for the
28 training program.