

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 265

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Benson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Respectfully urges Congress to pass Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities for Veterans Act.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/1/2021)**

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully urging the United States  
2 Congress to pass the Advancing Uniform Transportation  
3 Opportunities for Veterans Act.  
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Currently, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
6 provides eligible veterans with a one-time grant of approximately  
7 \$21,400 to assist the veteran in purchasing a new or used automobile  
8 and any necessary adaptive equipment, such as special pedals or  
9 switches; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Veterans often use the one-time grant in conjunction with  
11 VA Special Adaptive Equipment Grants, which help veterans  
12 purchase adaptive equipment, such as powered lifts, for an existing  
13 automobile to make the vehicle safe and feasible for a veteran with  
14 disabilities; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Although eligible veterans can receive multiple special  
16 adaptive equipment grants over the course of their lives, they are  
17 limited to a single grant to purchase a vehicle; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The current limitation fails to take into account that a  
19 veteran with disabilities is likely to need more than one vehicle  
20 during the veteran's lifetime; and

21 **WHEREAS**, According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, the  
22 average age of a household vehicle is 11.8 years, and a vehicle that  
23 has been modified structurally tends to have a shorter useful life; and

24 **WHEREAS**, The average cost to replace a modified vehicle ranges from  
25 \$20,000 to \$80,000 when the vehicle is new and \$21,000 to \$35,000  
26 when the vehicle is used; and

27 **WHEREAS**, The substantial cost of modified a vehicle, coupled with  
28 inflation, present a financial hardship for many veterans with  
29 disabilities who need to replace their primary mode of transportation  
30 once their vehicle reaches its lifespan; and

31 **WHEREAS**, The bipartisan Advancing Uniform Transportation  
32 Opportunities for Veterans Act would ease the financial burden for a  
33 veteran with a service-connected severe disability who requires  
34 special adaptive equipment to drive a motor vehicle; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Under the bipartisan legislation, eligible veterans have the  
36 opportunity to receive a grant to help purchase a new adaptive  
37 vehicle once every 10 years instead of the current program which  
38 only provides a one-time grant; and

39 **WHEREAS**, The federal legislation would help eligible veterans preserve  
40 the freedom and independence that adaptive vehicles provide and  
41 ensure that they are able to safely travel to and from work, medical  
42 appointments, and family obligations; and

43 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for this House to demonstrate its  
44 support for this bipartisan legislation and honor our commitment to  
45 our veterans by continuing to support their needs, including the needs  
46 of veterans with disabilities; now, therefore,

1       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
2 *Jersey:*

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4       1. This House respectfully urges the United States Congress to  
5 support veterans with disabilities by passing the Advancing Uniform  
6 Transportation Opportunities for Veterans Act.

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8       2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
9 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the  
10 President of the United States, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the  
11 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority  
12 and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and United States  
13 House of Representatives, and each member of the United States  
14 Congress elected from the State of New Jersey.

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STATEMENT

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19       Currently, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
20 provide eligible veterans with a one-time grant of approximately  
21 \$21,400 to assist the veteran in purchasing a new or used automobile  
22 and any necessary adaptive equipment, such as special pedals or  
23 switches. The one-time grant program fails to take into account that  
24 a veteran with disabilities is likely to need more than one vehicle  
25 during the veteran's lifetime. According to the U.S. Department of  
26 Transportation, the average age of a household vehicle is 11.8 years,  
27 and a vehicle that has been modified structurally tends to have a  
28 shorter useful life. The substantial cost of a modified vehicle,  
29 coupled with inflation, present a financial hardship for many veterans  
30 with disabilities who need to replace their primary mode of  
31 transportation once their vehicle reaches its lifespan

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33       The bipartisan Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities  
34 for Veterans Act would ease the financial burden for a veteran with  
35 a service-connected severe disability who requires special adaptive  
36 equipment to drive a motor vehicle by providing eligible veterans  
37 with the opportunity to receive a grant to help purchase a new  
38 adaptive vehicle once every 10 years instead of the current program  
39 which only provides a one-time grant.

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41       This House respectfully urges Congress to pass the Advancing  
Uniform Transportation Opportunities for Veterans Act, which  
would support the needs of veterans with disabilities.