

[First Reprint]

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)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

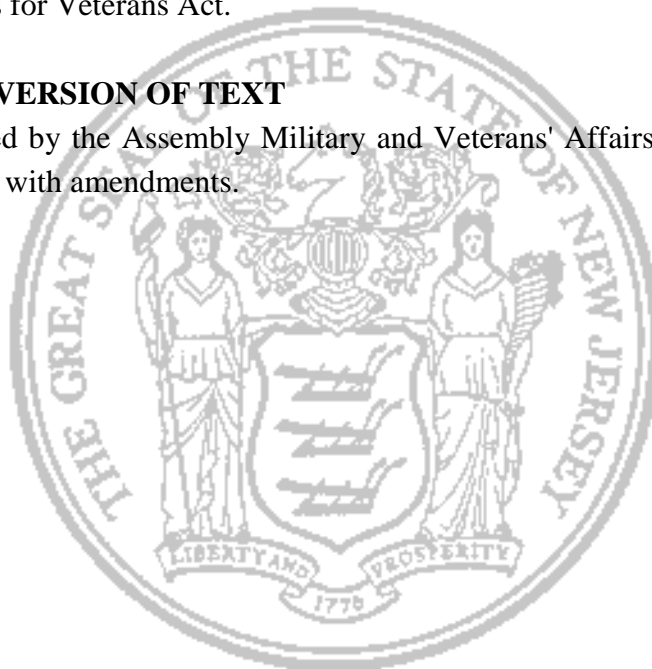
**Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblyman Tully and
Assemblywoman Murphy**

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee on June 9, 2021, with amendments.



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

- 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
6 Affairs provides eligible veterans with a one-time grant of
7 approximately \$21,400 to assist the veteran in purchasing a new or
8 used automobile and any necessary adaptive equipment, such as
9 special pedals or 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;
24 and
- 25 WHEREAS, The average cost to replace a modified vehicle ranges from
26 \$20,000 to \$80,000 when the vehicle is new and \$21,000 to
27 \$35,000 when the vehicle is used; and
- 28 WHEREAS, The substantial cost of ¹a modified ¹**[a]** vehicle, coupled
29 with inflation, present a financial hardship for many veterans with
30 disabilities who need to replace their primary mode of
31 transportation once their vehicle reaches its lifespan; and
- 32 WHEREAS, The bipartisan Advancing Uniform Transportation
33 Opportunities for Veterans Act would ease the financial burden for
34 a veteran with a service-connected severe disability who requires
35 special adaptive equipment to drive a motor vehicle; and
- 36 WHEREAS, Under the bipartisan legislation, eligible veterans have the
37 opportunity to receive a grant to help purchase a new adaptive
38 vehicle once every 10 years instead of the current program which
39 only provides a one-time grant; and
- 40 WHEREAS, The federal legislation would help eligible veterans
41 preserve the freedom and independence that adaptive vehicles
42 provide and ensure that they are able to safely travel to and from
43 work, medical appointments, and family obligations; and
- 44 WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper for this House to demonstrate its
45 support for this bipartisan legislation and honor our commitment to

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AMV committee amendments adopted June 9, 2021.

1 our veterans by continuing to support their needs, including the
2 needs of veterans with disabilities; now, therefore,

3

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
5 *Jersey:*

6

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

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