

SENATE, No. 171

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes grant program for homeless veterans shelters.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT establishing the Southern New Jersey Homeless Veterans
2 Shelter Grant Program and supplementing Title 38A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

1. There is established in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs the "Southern New Jersey Homeless Veterans Shelter Grant Program." The purpose of this program is to award grants to the three southern-most counties in this State for identifying and providing appropriate locations and property for the State to develop and operate shelters for homeless veterans. The grants shall be awarded based upon the submission of applications by an eligible county in accordance with a process and criteria developed by the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and monies appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose. The application shall, at the minimum, include a description of the proposed location of a homeless veterans shelter and the property to be provided by the county to the State for development of a homeless veterans shelter. The Adjutant General may adopt, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the grant program.

25 As used in this section, the “three southern-most counties” means
26 the counties of Atlantic, Cape May, and Cumberland.

28 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

33 This bill would require the Adjutant General of the Department
34 of Military and Veterans' Affairs to award grants to certain southern
35 New Jersey counties to provide veterans with improved access to
36 homeless shelters. Under the bill, Atlantic County, Cape May
37 County, and Cumberland County may submit applications to the
38 Adjutant General proposing locations for homeless veterans shelters
39 and identifying property the county would provide to the State for
40 the development of a shelter.

New Jersey's southern counties are in particular need of shelters for homeless veterans. Because of mobility issues, homeless veterans' access to resources is often limited by geographic location. Various factors may have caused homeless veterans to locate within southern New Jersey counties. However, when conditions, such as extreme cold, require them to seek out temporary shelter, they find themselves isolated from shelters and other facilities that provide resources for veterans. This bill would result in the development of shelters in locations appropriate to meet this need.